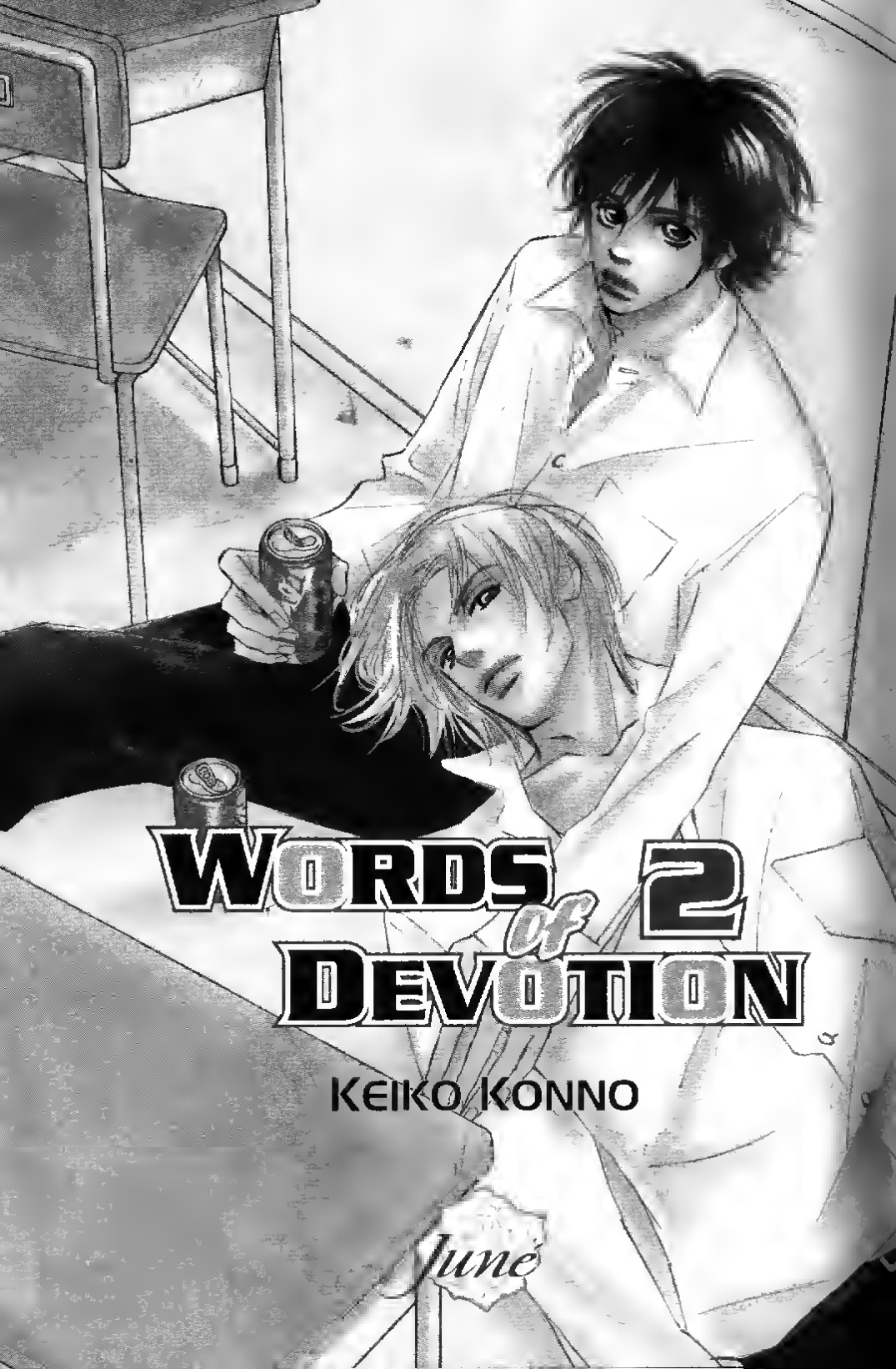
WORDS of DEVOTION 2
KEIKO KONNO
June

WORDS of DEVOTION 2

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Printed in China

GATAK
AFTER MORE THAN A YEAR, EVERY STUDENT FINDS A FAVORITE SPOT AT THEIR SCHOOL.
HEY...
OURS...
IS THE REFERENCE ROOM FARTHEST AWAY FROM THE MAIN CAMPUS.
NO ONE'S HERE TODAY.
ALL RIGHT!
WORDS of DEVOTION
STEADY LIKE THE FOREST

IF THERE'S NO SIGN OF OTHER STUDENTS COMING IN, WE EVEN START SMOKING...
I BEFRIENDED MIYAKO TACHIBANA IN OUR SECOND YEAR. WE HAD THE SAME INTERESTS, LIKE OUR PIECES MATCHED...
SO WHEN I BROUGHT HIM TO THIS ROOM, HE LIKED IT TOO.
I HATE TO REPEAT MYSELF, BUT...
ARE YOU SURE AKIZUKI-SAN DOESN'T MIND?
YOU LEFT MIZUSAWA ALONE TOO, TACHIBANA.
UMM... HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU...?
YUKI-CHAN'S JUST A FRIEND.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT HIS NAME...
HE JOKES THAT IT SOUNDS LIKE A GIRL'S, SO I CALL HIM BY HIS FAMILY NAME.
YEAH, RIGHT. I KNOW YOU LOVE HER.

IT'S ALL OURS, TACHIBANA.
WORDS of DEVOTION
徐かなること林の如し
STEADY LIKE THE FOREST
WE USUALLY EAT LUNCH AND TAKE NAPS HERE...
AS WE LISTEN TO THE DISTANT CHATTER OF THE STUDENTS.

IT'S OBVIOUS.
SNIFF
HUH? YOU CAN TELL?
YOU GUYS WERE SMOKING AGAIN, WEREN'T YOU?
I HAD LUNCH WITH YUKI.
...FINE!
MY NAME IS SHINYA OTANI.
OH.
2-5
AND THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND, YOUKO AKIZUKI. WE'VE BEEN GOING OUT A LITTLE OVER TWO MONTHS.
YOU SHOULD AIR OUT BEFORE COMING BACK TO CLASS.
OR MAYBE QUIT SMOKING AT SCHOOL?
THIS IS TACHIBANA'S GIRLFRIEND (THOUGH HE DENIES IT), YUKIKO MIZUSAWA.
SO THE FOUR OF US COULD HANG OUT.
TACHIBANA CAME TO MY AID, BRINGING ALONG A GIRL HE KNEW...
WANT TO GET SUSPENDED?
YOU JUST HAVE TO KNOW THE RIGHT SPOT... RIGHT?
BUT IT'S SECRET -- I CAN'T TELL YOU.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE GIRLS...
IN FACT, SHE'S THE FIRST GIRLFRIEND I'VE EVER HAD.
IT'S A SECRET!
WHERE HAVE YOU TWO BEEN?
HOW WAS LUNCH?
YOU'RE FINALLY BACK.

DID I SAY SOMETHING STUPID AGAIN...?
...
...
...
HUH...?
I'M FEELING SORRY FOR YOUKO-CHAN.
DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE THEM ALONE FOR A WHILE?
I'VE BEEN THINKING THE SAME THING...
7 SLICER
HEY, SO...
HUH? WHISTLE
HUH? WHISTLE

THAT SOUNDS FUN! WHY DON'T YOU TWO GO?
HA HA JELLY-FISH?
I'D LIKE TO SEE THE JELLYFISH AT THE AQUARIUM!
HMM... THE AQUARIUM, HUH?
IT MAY BE KIND OF LAME, BUT IT'S KNOWN AS "GROUP DATING."
HEY, OTANI...
WANNA DO SOMETHING TOMOR-ROW?
I'D RATHER SEE A MOVIE. CAN WE GO NEXT WEEK?
YOUR FAMILY'S COOL WITH US COMING OVER, RIGHT?
HUH? I'M TALKING ABOUT RENTING A MOVIE. 'CAUSE I'M POOR.
THE SUNSHINE AQUARIUM IS NEARBY...
OH! HOW ABOUT WE GO TO THE THEATER AT IKEBUKURO?

THEY'LL BE BACK SOON...
YEAH.
MM.
...
HE TAKES AKIZUKI-CHAN HOME AFTER THEY GO OUT, RIGHT?
YEAH...
THEN, HONESTLY..
YOU MEAN TO OTANI?
CAN'T YOU SAY SOME-THING?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN SAY TO HELP HIM.
...
OTANI...
TACHIBANA

ENOUGH WITH THE SECRETS...!
I FEEL A LITTLE AWKWARD...
OH, HEY...
WE'RE BA-AACK!
BUT I DO LIKE THE SENSE OF PEACE I GET WHEN I'M WITH TACHIBANA...
HOW CAN HE HOLD HANDS WITH A GIRL SO EASILY?
...
NOR CAN I JOKE AROUND...
I CAN'T EVEN TAKE THINGS BETWEEN US TO THE NEXT LEVEL...
I COULD NEVER DO THAT.
...
GUYS, COME ON...
WHAT'S UP?
...
WHISPER
OH! HEY WERE FOOLING AROUND JUST NOW!
WHISPER
WE SHOULD'VE COME BACK LATER.
YOU THINK?
57

WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING?!
BLUSH
GULP!
ONE MORE. THIS IS FOR AKIZUKI-SAN...
PINO
...
...
WHA -- ?!
GASP
77
HEY, YUKI-CHAN...
WHAT?!
WHAT THE HELL AM I THINKING?
WHY DO I FEEL ROMANTIC TOWARD TACHIBANA?
MU...!
IT'S COLD...
WAS THAT ICE CREAM?!
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU CALL THAT "JUST A FRIEND"...?
HEY, OOHANI...
(OTANI)
TAP
YOU GUYS HAVE DEFINITELY FUCKED!
...
...

...
YUKI'S PASSED OUT, TOO...
SHE'S TAKEN OVER YOUR BED.
ZZZ
ARGH! HE'S TOTALLY PASSED OUT! YOU'RE A LIGHTWEIGHT -- WHY DID YOU DRINK?
WHAT THE..? IT'S ALL MELTED.
PSHTT
MM!
=HMPH= YEAH, SO I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE GIRLS...
YUCK.
GULP
I'M JUST NO GOOD AT BEING WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
COLOR OF NIGHT
THE JACKAL
ARMAGEDDON
BRUCE WILLIS TRIPLE FEATURE
HE GAVE IT TO YOU...
CAN YOU GIVE ME OTANI'S KISS?
TACHI-BANA.
TONGUE...?
I MEAN HOW YOU BIT HIS TONGUE.
...
I DIDN'T BITE HIM
YOU SHOULD REALLY TALK TO OTANI.
HEY, SHIN-CHAN!
WAKE UP
← WEAK TOLERANCE
HEY, OTANI...?

THEY REALLY LEFT HER BEHIND
OH, MAN..
WAVE
WAVE
SEE YA!
...
SHUT
LATER!
...
ZZZ スピー
OTANI WENT HOME ALREADY.
IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, SO YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T STAY HERE...
YUKI-CHAN, YOU DON'T LIKE ME... DO YOU?
MM...
C'MON, I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.
YUKI-CHAN, WAKE UP!
HUH?
YEAH. LET'S GO. WE CAN STILL CATCH THE TRAIN
OKAY...
HUH...?
DID I PASS OUT?
OTANI, LET'S GO!
FINE
NN...
BESIDES, YOU WANT HER, DON'T YOU?
SORRY -- IT'LL HAVE TO BE THAT WAY TONIGHT.
THINK OF IT AS YOUR BIG CHANCE.
HEY, WAIT...
YOU'RE NOT LEAVING YUKI-CHAN HERE...?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT -- YUKI DEFINITELY LIKES YOU.
GERCHAK
AKIZUKI-SAN, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE YUKI-CHAN'S FRIEND..
WELL, SURE... IT COULD BE MY CHANCE, BUT...
MY CHANCE?

I'M NO GOOD AT FINDING PLACES...
BUT IF WE TAKE HIM ALONG--
WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
UHH...
THIS IS GETTING *WEIRD*.

YOU GUYS ACT LIKE *HOMOS*.
IT'S MORE FUN WITH MORE PEOPLE, ISN'T IT?
HUH? COME ON!
BUT...

ARE YOU SORRY I ASKED YOU OUT?
IT'S TRUE THAT I FEEL MORE AT EASE WITH TACHIBANA THAN I DO WITH AKIZUKI...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN, YOU TWO ARE WEIRD...
YOU'RE *WAY* TOO CLOSE TO BE FRIENDS

C'MON, LET'S GET SOMETHING TO EAT!

HEY!
OTANI!

RING RIING
RING RIING

YEAH...?
SO, ABOUT THE AQUARIUM I TALKED ABOUT..
AH, DON'T WORRY -- TACHIBANA CAN FIND IT.
KASAI'S A BIT FAR, AND I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE, SO...
IF YOU'RE COOL WITH GETTING SOMETHING FROM THE CAFE-TERIA..
I DON'T MIND.

SHE SAID WE'RE QUEER...
THERE'S NOTHING MORE VALUABLE TO ME THAN SOMEONE I FEEL AT EASE WITH...
...
THAT PEOPLE CALL US "HOMOS"...
I MEAN, C'MON -- THIS IS NORMAL, RIGHT?
BUT IF SHE WANTS TO GO SOMEWHERE, I DO MY BEST TO FOLLOW ALONG.
I WAS HAPPY WHEN YOU ASKED ME.
IF I HAD TO CHOOSE, I'D RATHER BE AROUND TACHIBANA THAN HER...
OF COURSE NOT...!
I'M SORRY...
EALLY.
I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN, BUT...
...
MAYBE WE SHOULD SKIP LUNCH TODAY.
HEY...
I KNOW YOU'RE AWAKE.
TACHI-BANA!

WHAT THE HELL..?!
DUDE, THAT WAS CLOSE!
THE ANGLE, YOUR HAIR -- EVERYTHING! UGH! I ALMOST MADE A BIG MISTAKE RIGHT THERE!
...
OH, MAN... THAT HURTS.
HUH...?
I'M GONNA GO.
LATER.
WHY?
YOU COULD'VE DONE IT.
LIKE, NO BIG DEAL
THAT WAS A GIANT STEP INTO HOMO-LAND!
DUMB-ASS!
PHEW!

IT'S LIKE OTANI DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE BASICS.
I DON'T KNOW..
ARE YOU KIDDING?
SO YOU TWO HAVEN'T SLEPT TOGETHER YET?
...
EEK!
I KNOW I ASKED HIM OUT..
BUT ALL HE SAYS IS, TACHIBANA-THIS AND TACHIBANA-THAT...
HE WON'T EVER TAKE THE NEXT STEP!
UM... BUT...
MAYBE HE JUST HAS BAD TIMING...?
YEAH, I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT...
OR, DID YOU EVER THINK...
MAYBE HE'S A VIRGIN?
I WONDER WHERE THEY GO?
THOSE TWO ALWAYS DISAPPEAR TOGETHER, DON'T THEY?
CHUUU
I SAID SOMETHING AWFUL TO HIM... LIKE HE'S A HOMO
WELL, IT'S MY FAULT TODAY..
PIP
O-I OCHA TEA
THEY LEFT US ALONE AGAIN..
SAME THING WITH TACHIBANA -- WHY DOES HE ALWAYS HAVE TO TAG ALONG?
...
SHIT!
THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ME!
OTANI-KUN DOES HAVE THAT TENDENCY
OH! WELL, YOU DON'T SAY?
SO HE PAYS YOU BACK BY AVOIDING YOU, EH?
...

...!!
I WON'T CRY, YOU BITCH!
YOUKO-CHAN! IF OTANI-KUN HEARD YOU, HE MIGHT START CRYING!
I WAS LIKE, "WOO-HOO, I'M GONNA TAKE OTANI-KUN'S VIRGINITY!" ♡
THAT'D BE SOMETHING, HUH?
ANYWAY, IF HE'S A VIRGIN SHOULDN'T HE BE MORE AGGRESSIVE?
I'D LIKE HIM TO BE...
MAN, I SHOULD'VE NEVER LISTENED TO GIRLS TALKING AMONGST THEM-SELVES...!
IT'S PROBABLY EMBARRASSING FOR HIM...
YOU KNOW HOW MEN ARE — ALL THAT STUPID PRIDE
SO, WHAT... DO I HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIM TO LOSE HIS VIRGINITY TO AN OLDER WOMAN?
HELL, NO!
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M A VIRGIN... I HAVE PRIDE... SO WHAT?
...

I GUESS I'LL PRETEND LIKE I NEVER OVERHEARD THAT CONVERSATION...
IT'S STUPID TO GET ANGRY OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT... AND EVEN IF I DID, IT'S TOO EMBARRASSING.
THANK YOU, TACHIBANA.
YOU NEVER SAY THINGS LIKE THAT OR QUESTION ME...
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE MY FRIEND.
TEAR

WORDS OF DEVOTION (STEADY LIKE THE FOREST) ❋ END

WORDS of DEVOTION 2

Turning back the clock, we find Shinya Otani and Miyako Tachibana in their second year of high school, well on the way to becoming inseparable friends. In fact, the pair spend so much time alone together, it's got Otani's girlfriend Akizuki woodering what's really going on between them. Will Otani turn his attentioo from Tachibana long enough to meet her oeeds? Or was their relationship doomed from the start – sabotaged by a lack of emotioo that Otani can't express? Strangely, Otani *can* find a few words for Tachibana's (sort of) girlfriend, Yuki. Maybe he feels threatened by her closeness to Tachibana… or maybe it's something else?

Keiko Konno, the creator of *Star,* illustrates four themed chapters that follow the concept of Furinkazan (forest, fire, wind and mountain) to reveal the beginnings of Otani and Tachibana's relationship, and bring this wonderful series to a close.

Now a live-action movie in Japan!

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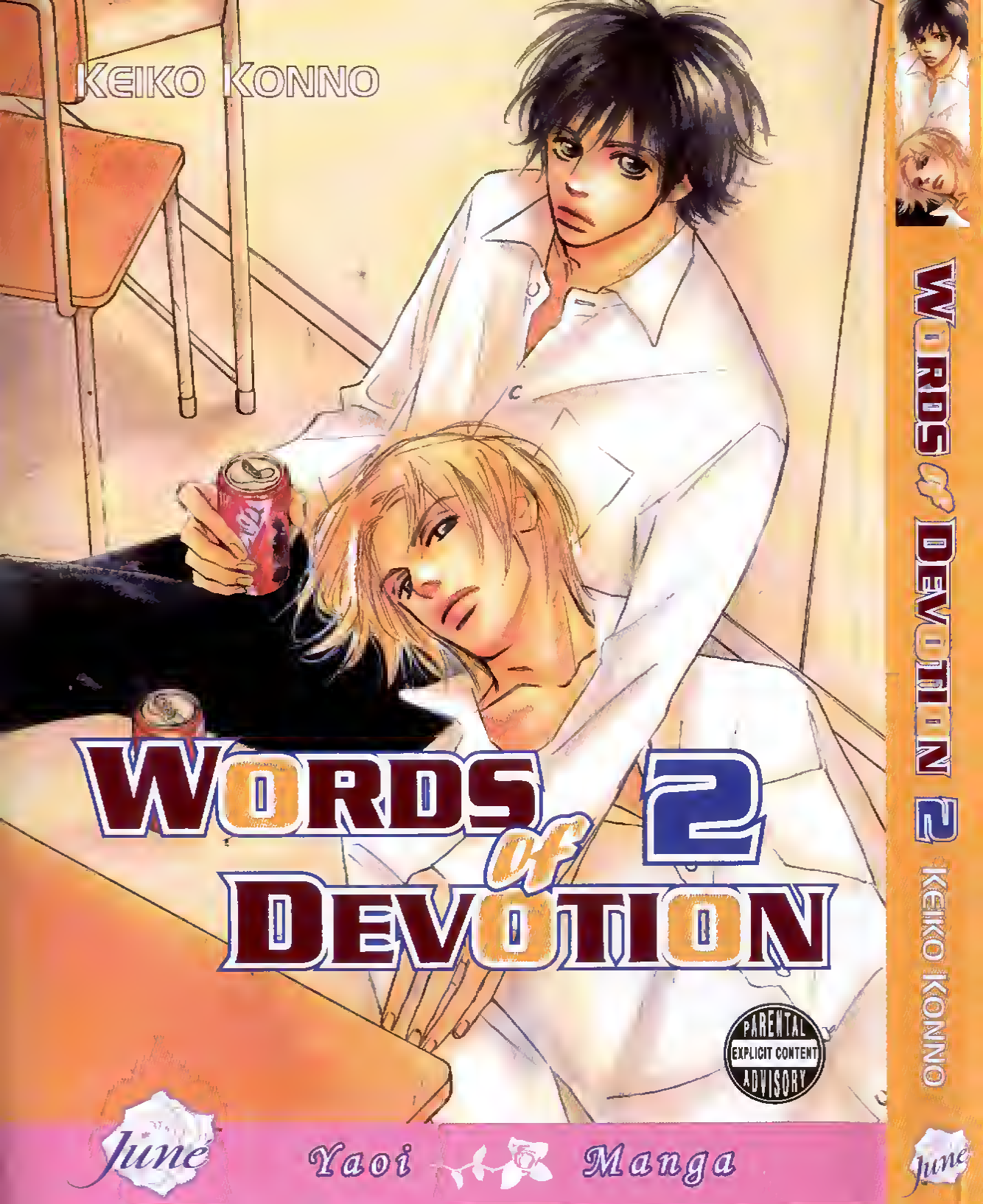
NATIVE MANGA
READ RIGHT TO LEFT

June by DMP
junemanga.com



WORDS of DEVOTION 2

KEIKO KONNO

June

MY FIRST GIRLFRIEND IS IN THE SAME CLASS AS ME. HOWEVER, I RECENTLY LEARNED THAT WHAT SHE SAID AND HOW SHE FELT WERE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.
WARNING: DEVIATION
AGGRESSIV
LIKE THE FI
HEY, AKIZUKI-SAN...
AROUND THE SAME TIME, I ALSO FOUND A BEST FRIEND...
AND...
HAVE YOU DONE IT WITH OTANI YET?
WHAT AM I SAYING -- OF COURSE YOU HAVE!
SO HOW IS HE? PRETTY GOOD?
I KNOW IT'S WEIRD FOR ME TO ASK, BUT.
...
WHAT...?
I MEAN, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU STARTED GOING OUT?
TWO MONTHS, RIGHT?

WORDS of DEVOTION

...HE ALSO HAPPENS TO BE MY CLASSMATE.

YOU'RE BEING STUPID...

I DON'T HAVE TO *ANSWER* THAT!

AND HIS BEAUTIFUL NAME IS MIYAKO TACHIBANA...

SLAM
GRAAA
STUCK WITH CHORES
HUH? OH, YEAH... SORRY.
YOU'RE LATE, OTANI!
C'MON, LET'S GO!
IS SHE PISSED OFF?
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HER?
I DUNNO!
YOU'D BETTTER GO AFTER HER!
HEY, WAIT UP!
BUT I'M STILL GOING OUT WITH HER.
I DIDN'T KNOW SHE COULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
"I'M GONNA TAKE OTANI-KUN'S VIRGINITY" ♡

ガラ
GRAAA
SHINYA OTANI (AGE 16).
EARLY SUMMER.
H-HUH...?
...
...
DEAD AIR
WHAT'S WRONG?

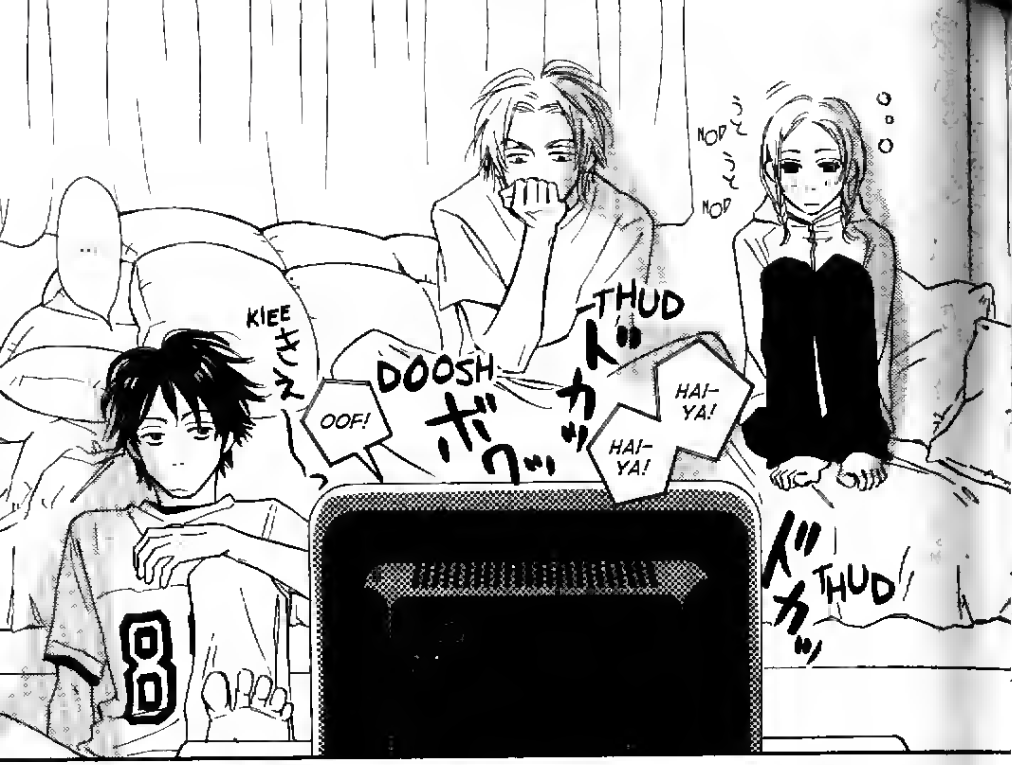
"OTANI DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE BASICS."
HER WORDS ARE DEEPLY ETCHED IN MY MIND...
"MAYBE HE'S A VIRGIN?"
"I'M GONNA TAKE OTANI-KUN'S VIRGINITY."
"I'M GONNA TAKE OTANI-KUN'S VIRGINITY."
"I'M GONNA TAKE OTANI-KUN'S VIRGINITY."
AW, MAN...
I DON'T WANT THAT TO BE MY TEENAGE TRAUMA!
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
SHOOT...
I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT IT.
GIRLS LOOK CUTE ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT IT'S HARD TO TELL WHAT THEY'RE THINKING ON THE INSIDE.
NO. IT'S NOTHING
YOU SURE?
HEY, C'MON! DID YOU GUYS GET IN A FIGHT, OR SOMETHING?
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT LEAVING TACHIBANA BEHIND?
HUH? HE'S WAITING FOR MIZUSAWA, ISN'T HE?
AKIZUKI!
ピタ
HALT
I DUNNO...
THE TRUTH IS...
HOW DO I PUT IT...?
I FIGURED I'D END UP DOING IT WITH HER SOONER OR LATER, BUT...
BY THE WAY...
THE PLAN ABOUT GOING TO TACHIBANA'S THIS SUNDAY...?
I DON'T KNOW...
MAYBE IT'S MY PRIDE.?
ZIP
JERK
YAWN
YUKI HAD SOMETHING TO DO TODAY, SO SHE LEFT.

I GUESS *YOU* FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE WITH TACHIBANA!
GRIP
YEAH, WELL...
IT'S JUST THAT, YOU KNOW..
YOU'RE GONNA *PASS?*
WHY?!
GIRLS ARE JUST LIKE THAT.
WELL...
UMM...
...
TACHIBANA HELPED ME HEAL THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WOUND YOU CREATED...
I WAS FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF ALL DAY, AND HAD THESE EMOTIONS RUSHING THROUGH ME...
I EVEN CRIED A LITTLE.
IT'S FIFTH PERIOD ALREADY..
GUESS WE DITCHED.
I THINK WE SHOULD JUST GO OUT BY OURSELVES..
BUT *YOU* DON'T FEEL THAT WAY, DO YOU?
UH?
...
I DON'T FEEL *COMFORTABLE* WITH TACHIBANA.
AH...
WHAT?

WHY...?
I THINK YOU SHOULD BREAK UP WITH AKIZUKI-SAN
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BREAK UP WITH HER
"THERE'S SOMEBODY ELSE I LIKE."
OKAY, I KNOW WHY...
I DOUBT I'LL EVER FEEL LIKE DOING ANYTHING WITH HER AFTER WHAT I HEARD...
AND... I AM FEELING A BIT DOWN...
YEAH...
OTANI!
WHAT?
WAIT UP.
C'MON, LET'S GO.
THEY'RE GONNA START CLEANING
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
17° FAT
17° FAT

THE ONLY REASON I'M STILL GOING OUT WITH AKIZUKI-SAN...
IS BECAUSE I CAN'T THINK OF A GOOD REASON TO BREAK UP WITH HER.
WELL IN THAT CASE, MAYBE I SHOULD GO..
I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO BREAK THE PLANS, THAT'S ALL.
HUH? AKIZUKI-SAN'S NOT COMING?!
...
ALL RIGHT, WAIT A SECOND...
SERIOUSLY, DUDE... LET'S START FROM THE TOP..
WHAT ABOUT YUKI-CHAN? SHE'S PROBABLY ON HER WAY OVER HERE!

HAVE YOU EVER DONE IT..?
I REALLY WAS HAPPY WHEN SHE ASKED ME OUT.
YEAH...
YOU REALLY ARE A GREAT FRIEND.
SIGH...
SO, BASIC-ALLY..
YOU SAID YOU HAD A GIRLFRIEND BACK IN FIRST YEAR, AND THERE'S MIZUSAWA NOW...
I KNOW YOU HAVE.
SO YOU'RE STILL GONNA GO OUT WITH HER?!
I TOLD YOU...
I HAVEN'T DONE IT WITH YUKI-CHAN, NOR WILL I...


KIEE
OOF!
DOOSH
THUD
HAI-YA!
HAI-YA!
MOP
MOP
THUD

MAYBE BECAUSE I THOUGHT HANGING ROUND YOU WOULD BE MORE FUN?
I JUST BLEW IT OFF.
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW, MYSELF.
YEAH, AKIZUKI SAID THE SAME THING..
SO WHY DID YOU BLOW OFF A DATE WITH HER TO COME OVER HERE?! YOU IDIOT!
I KNEW YOU AND AKIZUKI-SAN WERE HAVING TROUBLE -- THAT'S WHY WE STARTED TRYING TO HELP YOU GUYS OUT...
NAG
NAG
NAG
NAG

I'M GETTING BORED...
YAWN
YEAH, I KNOW...
NO MATTER HOW GREAT A MOVIE IS, BY THE THIRD ONE IT'S JUST A DRAG.
RIGHT, YUKI-CHAN?
I FORGOT
AND YOU HAVE TO RETURN THEM TODAY.
BUT YOU DID SAY YOU WANTED TO SEE ALL OF THEM AT THE VIDEO STORE, SO THAT'S WHY WE'RE WATCHING THIS...

HAI-YAAA!

SLIDE
I'VE GOT HALF A HARD-ON...!
WHAT THE...?!
GULP
FINE, JUST DON'T GET CLOSE TO ME.
BRUSH
OH...
SHHH!
I'M GONNA SLEEP TOO. GIVE ME HALF OF THAT BLANKET.
WHY ARE YOU COMING IN *HERE*?!
MM...?
...
...
YOU...!
I DON'T WANT TO EMBARRASS THE BOTH OF US
DUMBASS... I'D LOVE TO, BUT THAT'S JUST WRONG...
IN MANY WAYS
WHY DON'T YOU GO SLEEP WITH MIZUSAWA?
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
...

SHE FELL ASLEEP!
CAN I GO TO SLEEP, TOO?
Z Z Z
IF YOU SLEEP NOW, YOU'LL BE UP LATER TONIGHT...
I THINK YOU SHOULD GO HOME.
OKE
I'M HITTING THE SACK.
YUKI-CHAN...?
...
CRAP...
WHAT AM I THINKING...?
SHIVER
OH.

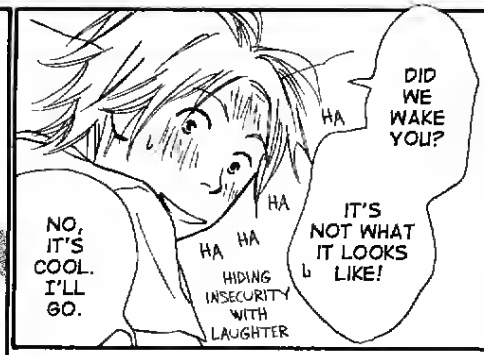
...
I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
BOOF
ばふっ

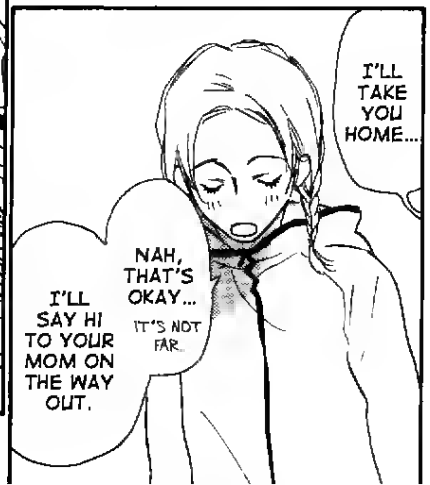
HEY...
...
GULP

I COULD HEAR YOU GUYS TALKING... THE WHOLE TIME...
UNCOM-FORTABLE.
I'M VERY..
S... SORRY..

YOU'RE HALF HARD, TOO!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT...?!
UMMMM...
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT...?
I'M A TEENAGER!!

SEE YOU GUYS AT SCHOOL TOMORROW.

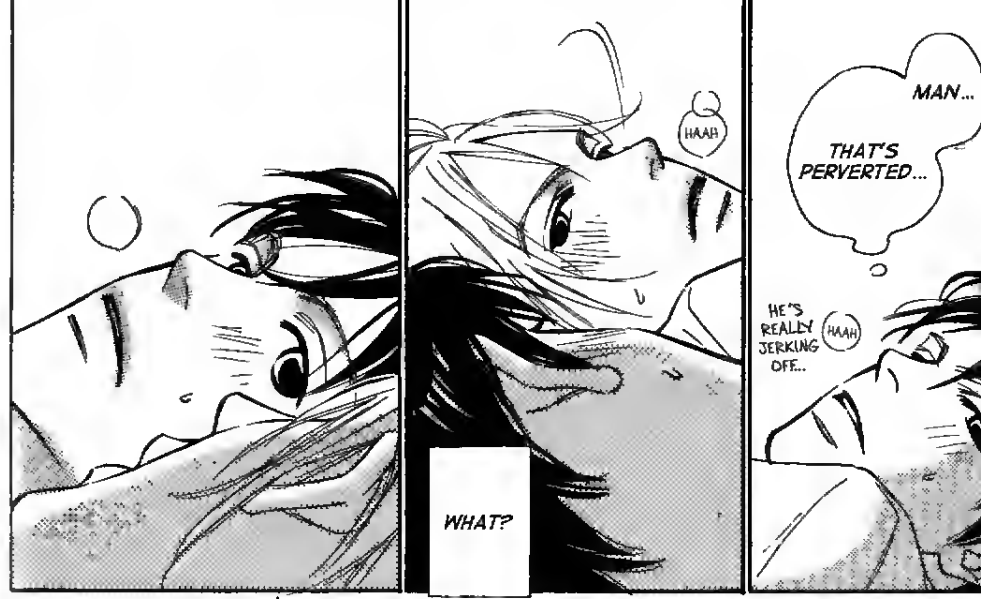

DID WE WAKE YOU?
HA
HA
HA
HA
HIDING INSECURITY WITH LAUGHTER
IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!
NO, IT'S COOL. I'LL GO.


I'LL TAKE YOU HOME...
NAH, THAT'S OKAY...
IT'S NOT FAR.
I'LL SAY HI TO YOUR MOM ON THE WAY OUT.

MM!
HAAH
MM!
MM!
...
...
HAAH
DOING...
MM!
SOME-
THING
LIKE THIS
WITH
ANOTHER
PERSON...?
HAAH
MM!
HAAH
HAAH
IS THIS...
NORMAL...?
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH

WE'RE
ALREADY
EMBARRASSED,
SO WHAT'S
LEFT TO BE
ASHAMED
OF...?
I
KNOW IT'S
KIND OF
WEIRD, BUT
I HAVEN'T
GONE SOFT
YET...
WANNA
JERK
OFF WITH
ME?
WHAT...?
I
MEAN...
OH...!
HAAH
AH...!
AHH!
HAAH
HAAH

GET ME SOME TISSUE... HURRY!
HUH?
T-TISSUE...
IDIOT, I'M GONNA CUM...
=CK!=
...
MM...
=GK!=
AH...
HAAH
HAAH


HAAH
WHAT?
MAN...
THAT'S PERVERTED...
HE'S REALLY JERKING OFF...
HAAH

CREAK
HEY...

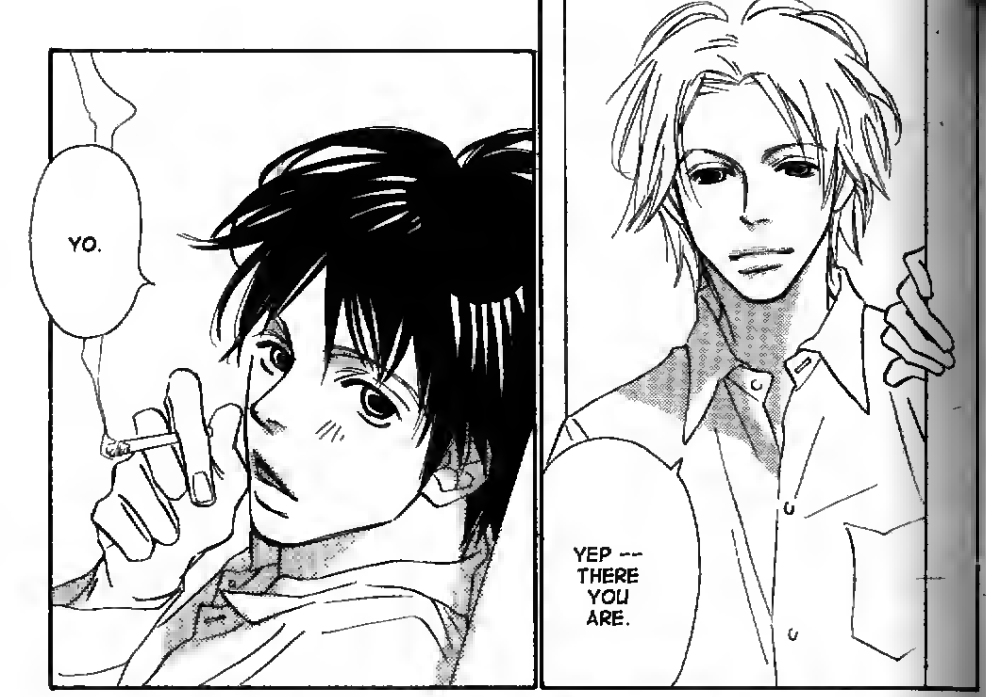
HIS BREATH...
WHOA.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?

CREAK
YOUR BED'S OPEN NOW. SLEEP OVER THERE.
...
I THINK...
...
I JUST...?
I WONDER HOW THE PORNO ENDED...?

YEAH...
DID YOU... CUM?
HAAH
I'M NOT USUALLY THIS FAST.
NEITHER AM I.
...
TISSUE...
YOU GONNA SLEEP OVER TONIGHT?
YEAH.
...
HAAH

GOOD MORNING, AKIZUKI-SAN!
HEY.
WENT HOME TO PICK UP HIS BACKPACK
YEAH.
YOU REALLY ARE CLOSE FRIENDS...
DID YOU SLEEP OVER AT TACHIBANA'S PLACE AGAIN?
GOOD MORNING.
RAGE
SO YOU CONFIRMED YOUR FEELINGS FOR ONE ANOTHER, RIGHT?
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO SAY THAT?!
BAM
I SHOULDN'T THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT IT.
NAH... I'VE GOTTA BE WRONG. IT'S JUST BECAUSE TACHIBANA'S FACE LOOKED SO BEAUTIFUL.
BUT...
KING
KING
KING
IT DID FEEL GOOD.

SORRY.
I THINK I KNOW WHAT'S TROUBLING HIM.
BUT...
YOU'LL JUST MAKE MATTERS WORSE IF YOU GO AFTER HIM NOW.
SILENCE
...
どす STOMP
どす STOMP
どす STOMP
FUCK?!
CON-FIRMED...
YOUR...
FEE-LINGS!
WHAT... THE...
WHY DID SHE HAVE TO SAY IT IN THAT TONE...?!
GRAA ガラッ
SLAM ピシャッ
GRAA GRAA ガラガラ
HMM...
WH...
WHAT'S WRONG...?
FWIP ぱっ
HEY...
WAIT...
I'LL GO.
WAIT, TACHI-BANA --
OH!
CREAK ガチャ


YO.
YEP -- THERE YOU ARE.

TAKE IT EASY!
FIRST PERIOD IS JUST BASIC MATH... AND MY FOCUS IS HUMANITIES.
C'MON MAN, YOU HURT AKIZUKI-SAN'S FEELINGS.
I KNOW...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME HERE TO TELL ME THAT.

WHY?
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE...
SO WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU?
...

I'VE NEVER OPENED PART OF MYSELF LIKE THAT TO ANYBODY ELSE BEFORE...
OR MAYBE I JUST HAVEN'T CALMED DOWN YET.
...
I... FEEL LIKE AN IDIOT...

AND...
IT WAS TACHIBANA...
FERENCE ROOM 2
GRAA

YOU WANNA KISS?
SURE!
DUDE...
...
NOT SO FAST...

DO YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF REPRESSED FEELINGS FOR AKIZUKI-SAN?
WHA...?!

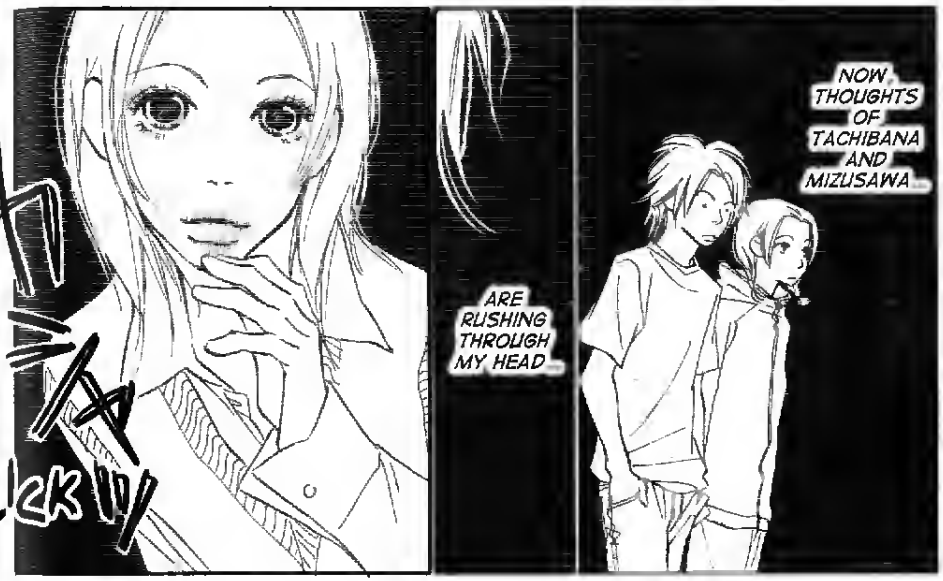
...
IS THIS ABOUT YESTERDAY...?
I MEAN, THE WAY YOU JUST BLEW UP...

I WONDER WHERE IT LEAVES THINGS BETWEEN US?
IT WAS PRETTY HOT ALL RIGHT... I GOT EXCITED, TOO...
I ALMOST KISSED YOU.

SO...
YOU NEVER DID ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE, HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU...? NO...!

...SHIT.
CLICK
HE'S MORE THAN JUST A FRIEND TO ME...
IT'S VERY BEAUTIFUL... JUST MY TYPE.
HIS FACE.
AGGRESSIVE LIKE THE FIRE...
CLICK

ARE YOU OKAY? DID OTANI-KUN COME BACK?
MUR-MUR
MUR-MUR
NO...
HE DIDN'T GO HOME, DID HE...?
KING
KING
KING
HEY, YOUKO-CHAN!
MUR-MUR
I DON'T SEE HOW HE CAN BE SO SELFISH...
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY HE GOT UPSET!
IT'S NOT FAIR -- HE DIDN'T GIVE ME A CHANCE TO APOLOGIZE!
I CAN SMELL THE NICOTINE...



WORDS OF DEVOTION (AGGRESSIVE LIKE THE FIRE) ✻ END

WORDS OF DEVOTION 2
KONNO KEIKO
PRESENTS

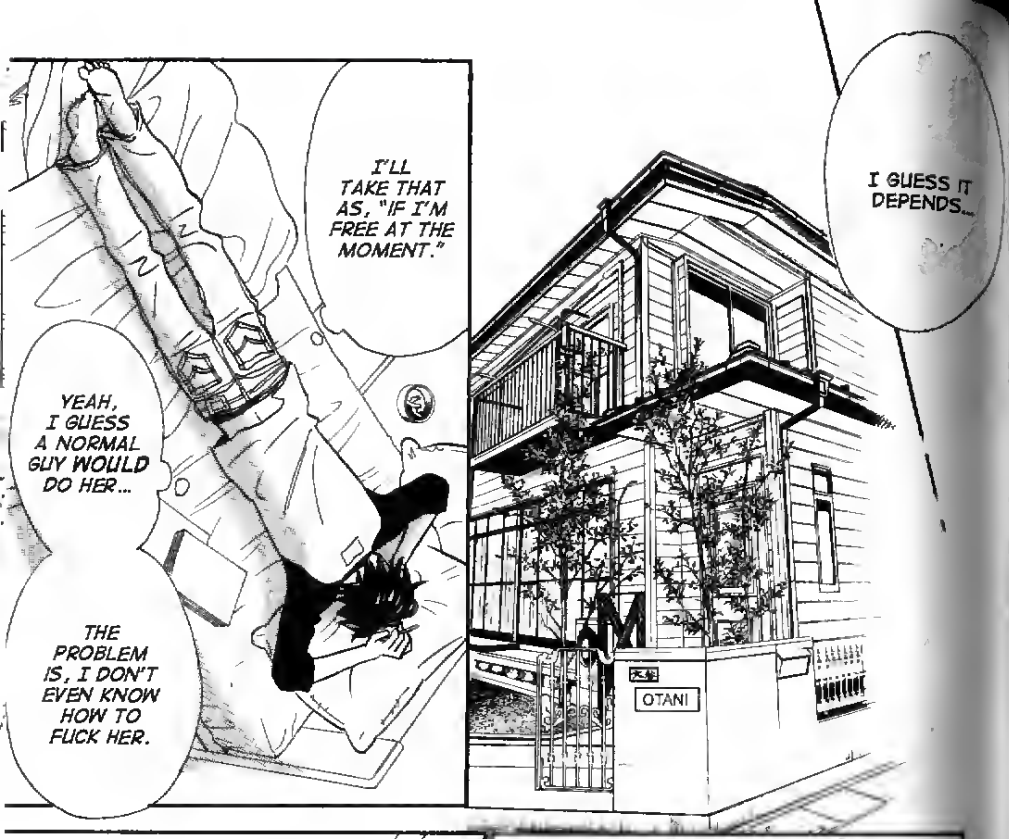
キーンコーンカーンコーン
RING RIIING
HEY, IT'S LUNCH TIME ALREADY.
OUR FAVORITE PLACE AT SCHOOL IS A SECRET ROOM THAT NO ONE COMES TO...
RESEARCH ROOM 2
才二資料室
SPEEDY LIKE THE WIND
YEAH.
LOOKS LIKE WE DITCHED OUR MORNING CLASSES.
WE WOUND UP TALKING ALL MORNING AND DOZED OFF...
WANNA GO?
...
WE EVEN KISSE --

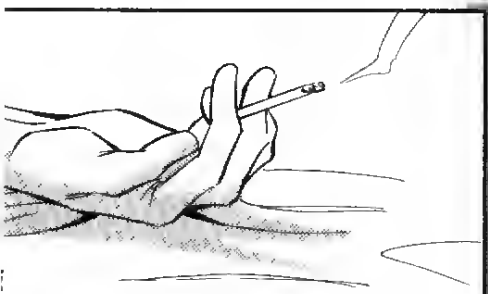
NO...
I LEFT MY BACK-PACK...
I THOUGHT YOU WENT HOME.
YEAH, IT'S STILL HERE.
OTANI?!
CREAK ガ!!
た～!!
HE WENT TO THE RESTROOM.
I SEE..
...
WHERE'S TACHI-BANA?
WHAT FOR?
I'M SORRY...
UMM...

NOW...
THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IS...
WORDS of DEVOTION
疾きこと風の如く
SPEEDY LIKE THE WIND
YOUKO AKIZUKI-SAN...

OR WE COULD GO BOWLING, OR SHOOT SOME POOL... I DON'T MIND...
DO YOU WANT TO GET DINNER LATER?
WHAT?
...YOU HAVE PLANS WITH TACHIBANA ALREADY?
HUH?
NO. WHY DO YOU ASK?
BUT...
I, UH...
...
NOT TONIGHT.
C'MON, THEN — LET'S GO OUT TONIGHT.

THAT'S RIGHT...
I WAS WITH TACHIBANA YESTERDAY (AND FOR SOME REASON WE BOTH ENDED UP JERKING OFF)...
OH, MAN.
I MUST'VE SAID SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU ANGRY..?
OH, RIGHT.
THIS MORNING...
I WOULD'VE REALIZED SHE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.
SO I GOT PISSED OFF.
SO YOU CONFIRMED YOUR FEELINGS FOR ONE ANOTHER, RIGHT?
AND SHE HAPPENED TO SAY...
...
IF I'D STAYED CALM...
AT JUST THE WRONG MOMENT...
SO..
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
I'M SORRY, TOO..
AH.. WHO CARES...?

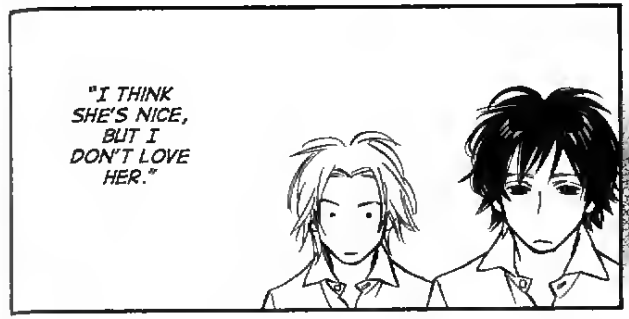

I'LL TAKE THAT AS, "IF I'M FREE AT THE MOMENT."
I GUESS IT DEPENDS...
YEAH, I GUESS A NORMAL GUY WOULD DO HER...
THE PROBLEM IS, I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO FUCK HER.
OTANI

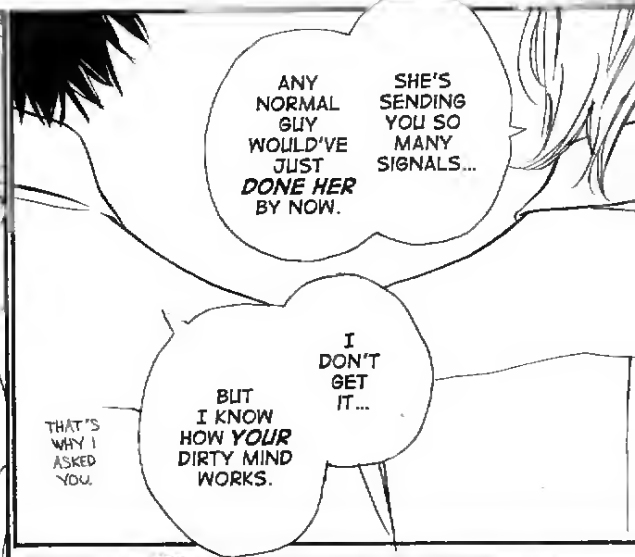


AND I'VE **NEVER** ASKED HER OUT...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, TODAY'S THE FIRST TIME I BLEW OFF AKIZUKI FOR NO REASON WHATSOEVER...

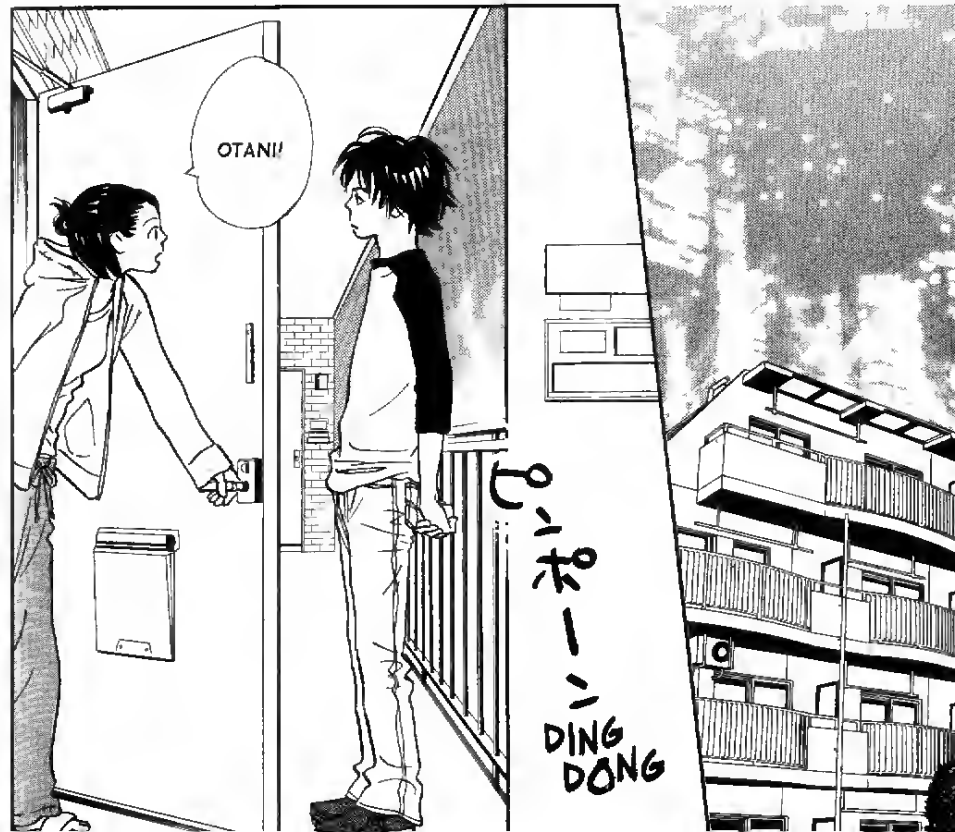
DEEP DOWN, I FEEL LIKE TWO PEOPLE WHO LOVE EACH OTHER WILL JUST DO IT NATURALLY...
MAYBE I'M TOO OLD-FASHIONED.
BOYS CAN BE ROMANTIC



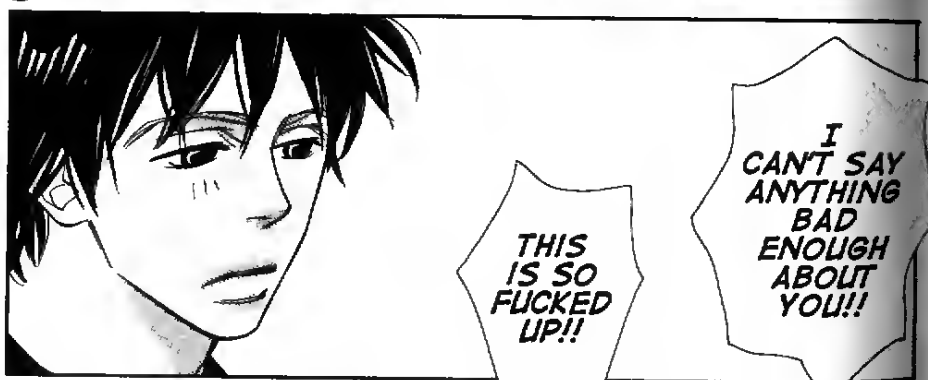

ANY NORMAL GUY WOULD'VE JUST **DONE HER** BY NOW.
SHE'S SENDING YOU SO MANY SIGNALS...
I DON'T GET IT...
BUT I KNOW HOW **YOUR** DIRTY MIND WORKS.
THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU.

WHAT'S WITH THE FACE...?
IF YOU WERE COMING OVER, YOU SHOULD'VE GIVEN ME A CALL FIRST...
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME IN THESE CLOTHES...
WE HAVE TO TALK.
NUMBER ONE — YOU LIKE SOMEBODY ELSE...
NUMBER TWO — YOU DON'T LIKE ME...

MAYBE I'M NOT CUT OUT TO DATE HER AT ALL...?


OTANI!
ピンポーン
DING DONG

ARRGH! I'M SO PISSED OFF!!
YOU KNEW THAT I WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU... WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST FUCK ME?!
UMM...
UH...
I'VE NEVER HIT ANYBODY IN MY LIFE!
I CAN'T DO THAT, YOU STUPID ASS!
DO YOU WANT TO SLAP ME?


I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING BAD ENOUGH ABOUT YOU!!
THIS IS SO FUCKED UP!!

PLEASE DON'T TELL EVERYBODY AT SCHOOL THAT YOU DUMPED ME...

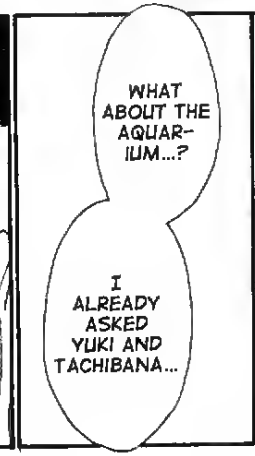
RAGE
CAN'T YOU EVEN PRETEND TO DENY IT?!
ARRGH!

I'M SORRY...
I DON'T THINK I CAN LOVE YOU.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
NUMBER THREE --
...YEAH, IT IS.
THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?!

BUT...
I REALLY DO LIKE YOU..

OH, RIGHT -- TACHIBANA ALREADY KNOWS, DOESN'T HE?


WHAT ABOUT THE AQUAR-IUM...?
I ALREADY ASKED YUKI AND TACHIBANA...

I'M SORRY.
WHAT...?! I-I FEEL LIKE A JERK...
YOU'RE SO DIRECT.

HOW ABOUT US? ARE WE DOWN-TO EARTH?
YOU CAN'T DO THAT, CAN YOU?
GUYS WHO DATE GIRLS ON A WHIM TEND TO BE DRAMATIC ABOUT IT...
OR ALWAYS MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ONE...
NOT... NECES-SARILY...
I LIKE YOU MORE THAN I LIKE GIRLS...
YOU SAYING WE SHOULD BECOME LOVERS?
I WANT FRIENDSHIP, AND A LOVE THAT'S EASIER TO UNDERSTAND.
DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSI-BLE...?
WANNA TRY IT...?

I'M SORRY...
HER UNDERSTANDING OF BREAKING UP AS BEING "DUMPED" MAKES ME FEEL PRETTY LOUSY...
IF I ONLY KNEW HOW TO HANDLE WOMEN...
SHE IS CUTE, BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW...
I GUESS A SENSITIVE GUY LIKE YOU NEEDS A RELATIONSHIP THAT'S MORE DOWN-TO-EARTH.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I SEE... SO YOU BROKE UP WITH HER.
MAYBE THERE WOULD'VE BEEN A CHANCE FOR US TO BE A COUPLE.

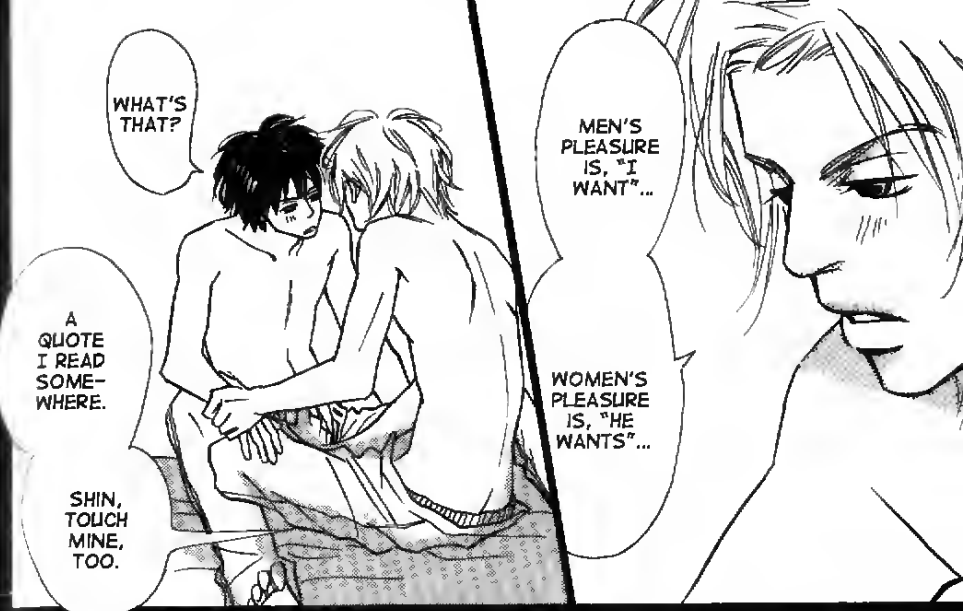
...
I'M MAKING A BACK-UP PLAN TO SALVAGE MY PRIDE IN CASE YOU SAY, "ON SECOND THOUGHT"...
OR SAYING THAT AS A FORM OF FOREPLAY?
DROOP
ARE YOU TRYING TO HIDE YOUR EMBARRASSMENT...
BUT MAYBE IT IS A FORM OF FOREPLAY...
THE FIFTH, ACTUALLY...
THAT'S THE THIRD TIME...
THOSE TWO DON'T COUNT...
REMEMBER WHEN THE FOUR OF US WERE DRUNK?

UMM...
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.
OH, SO MIZUSAWA HAS BIG TITS, HUH?
I'M NOT GETTING TURNED ON...
MEN'S CHESTS ARE PRETTY FLAT.
TAP
TAP
TAP

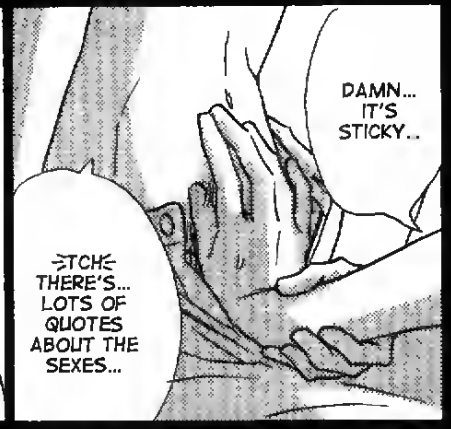
OH...
JERK
JUST THE SIMPLE LACK OF UNDERWEAR MAKES IT STRANGE...
SHIVER
THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT SEEING SOMEBODY YOU KNOW NAKED...
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THIS EVER SINCE I WAS WITH AKIZUKI...
HAAH
HEY...!
YEAH...
THERE'S THIS ACTRESS IN A LESBIAN MOVIE I SAW..
YOU LIKE IT?
THAT QUOTE POPS INTO MY HEAD SOMETIMES...
HAAH
HAAH
GRIP
GRIP
SHE SAID, "I HATE WOMEN BECAUSE THEY CAN READ PEOPLE'S MINDS."

OH!
THAT'S TURNING ME ON A LITTLE.
THAT'S A GOOD SIGN.
MM...
STARE
KERCHAK
STOP STARING...!
I THINK I'VE GOT A HARD-ON...
YEP...

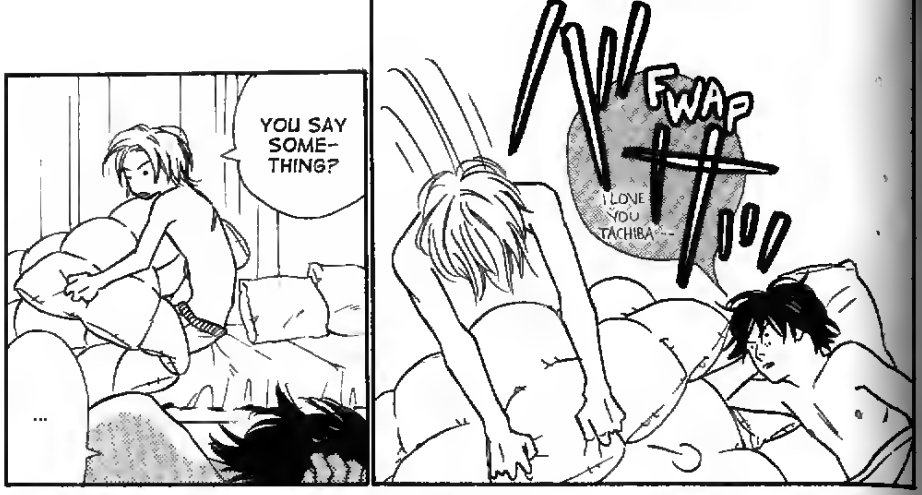
OKAY, BUT...
YOU COULD HELP ME OUT A LITTLE.
YOU KEEP SAYING IT!!
WILL YOU STOP ASKING ME...?
HOW'S THAT...?
FEEL GOOD?
CHMP
ME, TOO...
OH, YEAH...
HOW'S THAT...?

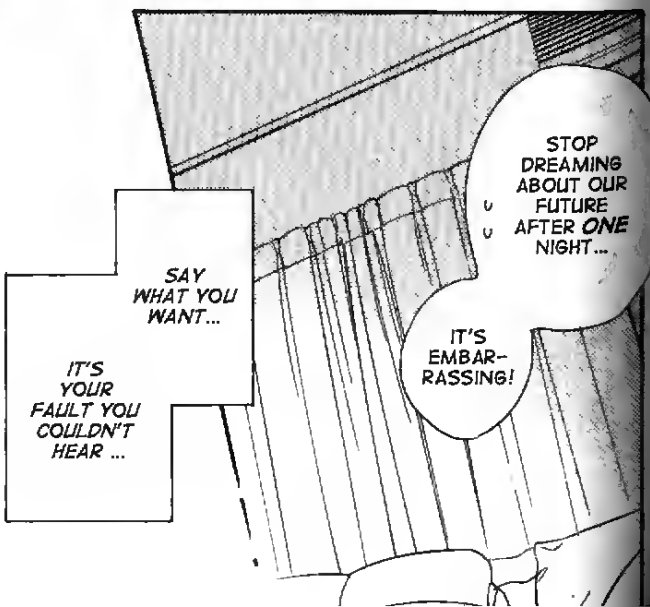

WHAT'S THAT?
A QUOTE I READ SOME-WHERE.
SHIN, TOUCH MINE, TOO.
MEN'S PLEASURE IS, "I WANT"...
WOMEN'S PLEASURE IS, "HE WANTS"...

JUST SO YOU KNOW, I CAN ALSO READ MINDS...
SURPRISED?

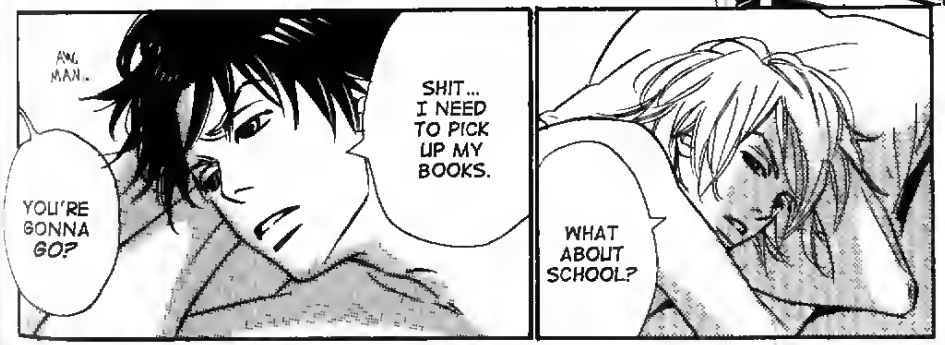

DAMN... IT'S STICKY..
TCH THERE'S... LOTS OF QUOTES ABOUT THE SEXES...

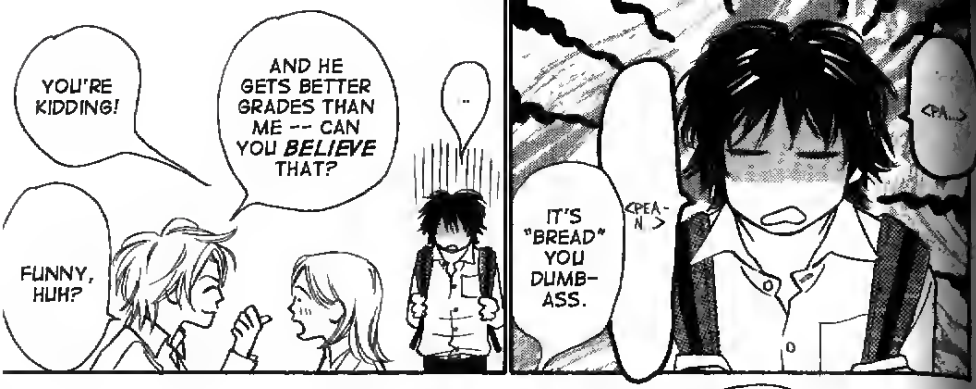
THAT WAY, MAYBE I CAN ALWAYS SAY I'M BISEXUAL...
HAAH
IF THERE'S A REASON, TELL ME...
BUT YOU CAN WITH ME?
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU COULDN'T DO THIS WITH AKIZUKI-SAN...



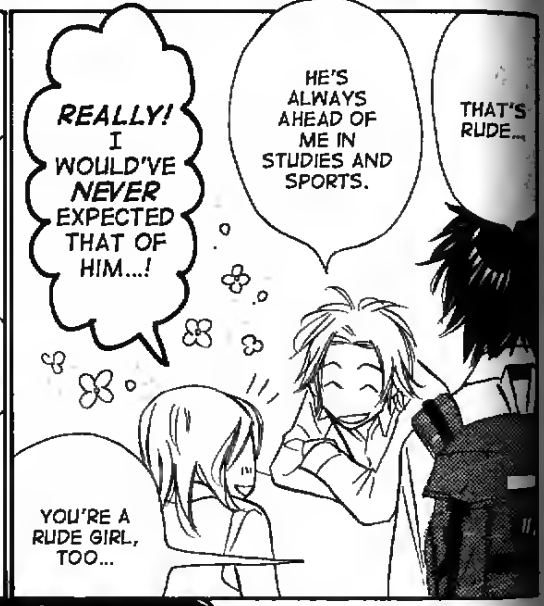


MY WORDS OF DEVOTION TO YOU.




YOU'RE KIDDING!
AND HE GETS BETTER GRADES THAN ME -- CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?
..
FUNNY, HUH?
IT'S "BREAD" YOU DUMB-ASS.
<PEA-N>
<PEA>

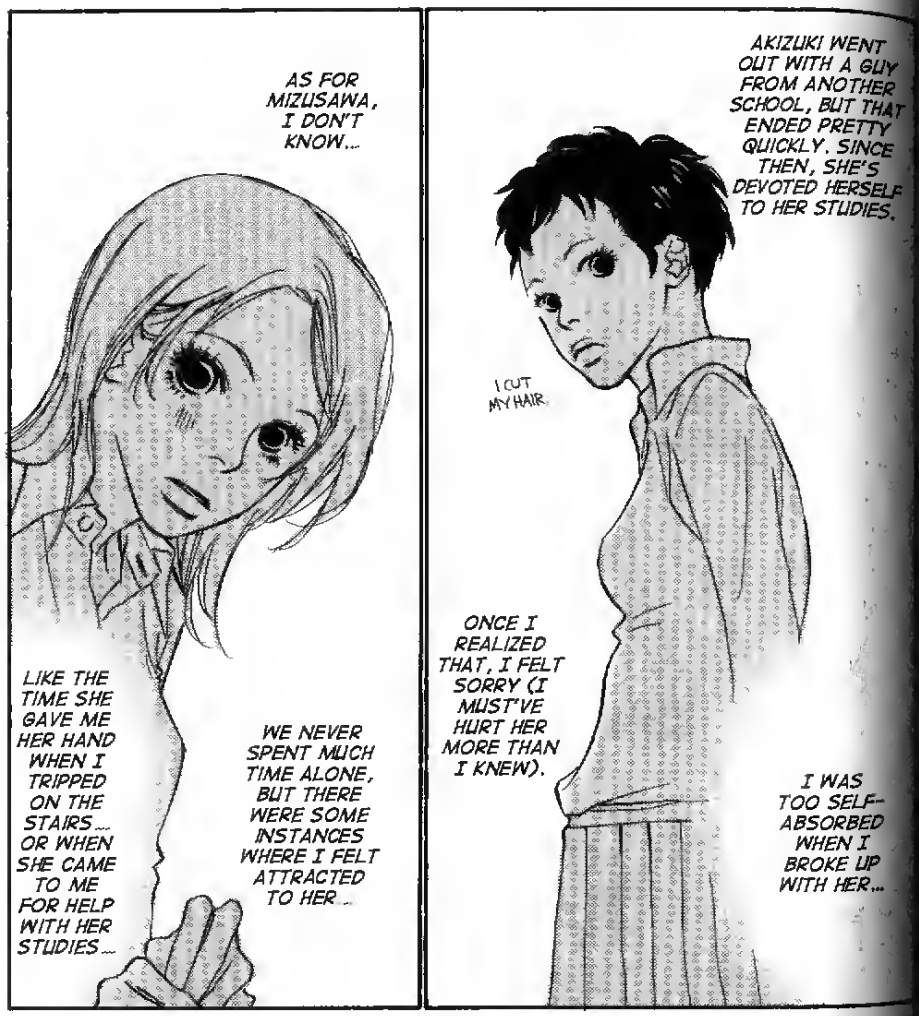
WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?
HUH?
OH, THAT PART. WE ALREADY COVERED IT IN MY CLASS


REALLY! I WOULD'VE NEVER EXPECTED THAT OF HIM...!
HE'S ALWAYS AHEAD OF ME IN STUDIES AND SPORTS.
THAT'S RUDE...
YOU'RE A RUDE GIRL, TOO...

AND I'M NOT LETTING YOU BORROW IT BECAUSE OF THE COMPLIMENT, ALL RIGHT?
ENGLISH

EXTRA COPY FOR SCHOOL
CREAK

MAYBE SOMEDAY THEY'LL BE ETCHED INTO YOUR SOUL...
HEY!
GOOD MORNING, OTANI-KUN!
TACHIBANA-KUN IS TEACHING ME ENGLISH!
ARE YOU MAD AT ME? WHY?!
HEY, SHINYA. HOW DO YOU SAY "PAN" IN ENGLISH?


AS FOR MIZUSAWA, I DON'T KNOW...
LIKE THE TIME SHE GAVE ME HER HAND WHEN I TRIPPED ON THE STAIRS... OR WHEN SHE CAME TO ME FOR HELP WITH HER STUDIES...
WE NEVER SPENT MUCH TIME ALONE, BUT THERE WERE SOME INSTANCES WHERE I FELT ATTRACTED TO HER...
AKIZUKI WENT OUT WITH A GUY FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL, BUT THAT ENDED PRETTY QUICKLY. SINCE THEN, SHE'S DEVOTED HERSELF TO HER STUDIES.
I CUT MY HAIR.
ONCE I REALIZED THAT, I FELT SORRY (I MUST'VE HURT HER MORE THAN I KNEW).
I WAS TOO SELF-ABSORBED WHEN I BROKE UP WITH HER...

TACHIBANA AND I WERE ABLE TO GET INTO ECONOMICS AT S-UNIVERSITY.

AKIZUKI'S GOING ON TO A JUNIOR COLLEGE AND MIZUSAWA WAS RECOMMENDED INTO AN ALL-WOMEN'S COLLEGE...

(THOUGH WE DID END UP IN DIFFERENT CLASSES OUR SENIOR YEAR, SINCE I CHOSE MATH AND HE CHOSE WORLD HISTORY).

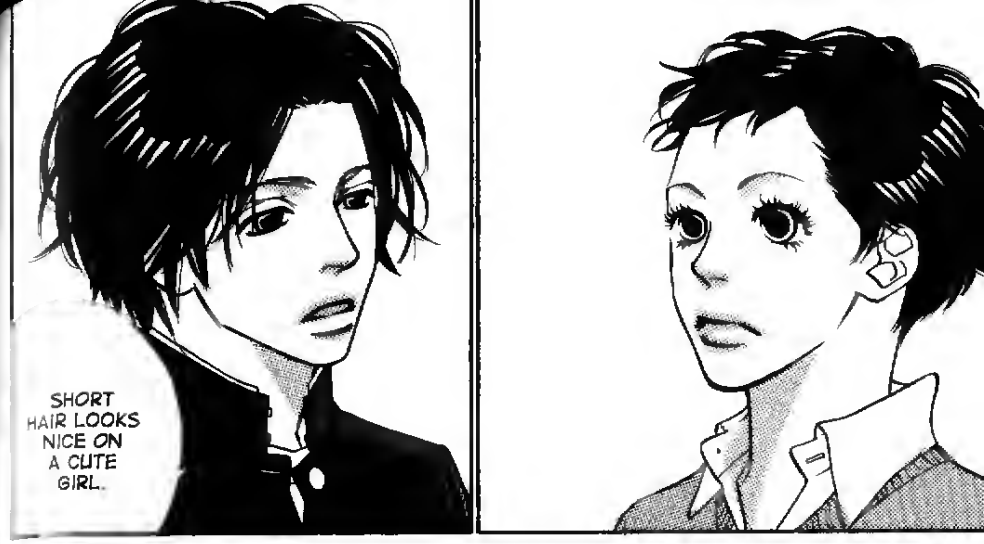
NOTHING'S CHANGED BETWEEN ME AND TACHIBANA...

MORE THAN A YEAR'S PASSED SINCE THEN...

FINALS ARE ALMOST OVER.

I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
HURRY UP AND START PACKING!
WAIT, TACHI-BANA...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT?" I'M TELLING YOU WE'RE MOVING!
WE'LL GET TO OUR NEW PLACE BY 8:30...
MY DAD AND I WILL PICK YOU UP AT 7 AM WITH THE TRUCK...
WHAT?
HUH? TACHI-BANA?
REALLY?!
I'VE ALREADY SIGNED THE LEASE, SO YOU'D BETTER BE READY!
SHEESH! WHEN I ASKED IF YOU WERE SERIOUS ABOUT LIVING TOGETHER, YOU SAID, "YEAH, CAN YOU TAKE CARE OF IT?"

VRRRR


SHORT HAIR LOOKS NICE ON A CUTE GIRL.

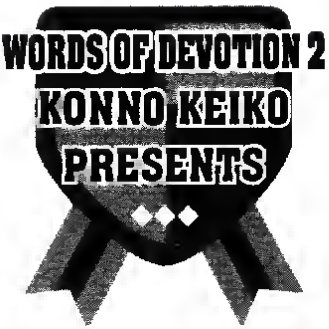
WHY COULDN'T YOU SAY THAT WHEN WE WERE GOING OUT?

GRADUATION IS NEAR...
HERE'S THE PLAN FOR THE DAY AFTER GRADUATION...
HELLO?
TRRRR...

KEIKO KONNO PRESENTS

TACHIBANA IS GREAT.
SO I'LL THANK GOD JUST THIS ONCE FOR THE WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY.
I'M SO HAPPY WE BECAME FRIENDS AT THE AGE OF 16...

RDS OF DEVOTION (SPEEDY LIKE THE WIND) ✱ END


WORDS OF DEVOTION 2
KONNO KEIKO
PRESENTS

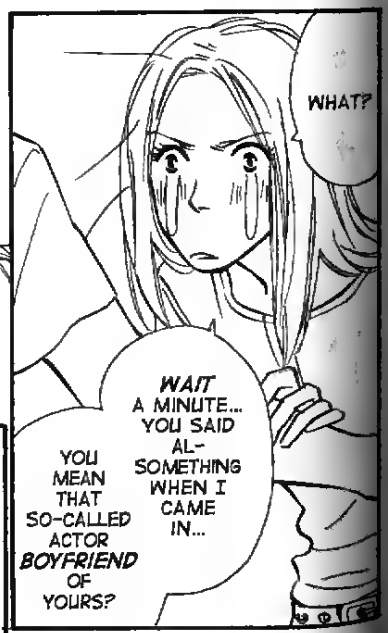
WORDS of DEVOTION
動かざること山の如し
IMMOVABLE LIKE THE MOUNTAIN

ALFRED ...!
ピン ポン
DING DONG
ガッ
ちゃ
GERCHAK
WHO DID YOU THINK I WAS?
WHAT THE HECK...?
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT LOCKING YOUR DOOR...?
どど
TEAR FALL
WHOA!
SORRY...
KITA-GAKI...

YOU'LL BE COMING TO JAPAN ONCE SUMMER'S HERE...
MAYBE YOU'RE GETTING BACK AT ME FOR THAT.
LAST SPRING, I WENT TO AMERICA AND SURPRISED YOU THERE...
WHEN I ASKED WHAT FLIGHT YOU WERE ON, YOU JUST LAUGHED AND BRUSHED IT OFF.

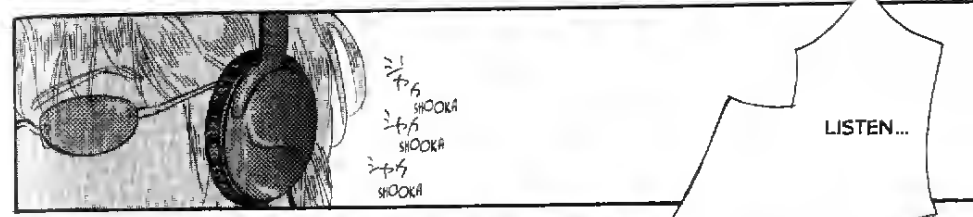
HANG ON... I'M KIND OF WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO ARRIVE, AND ---
SHOOKA
SHOOKA
SHOOKA

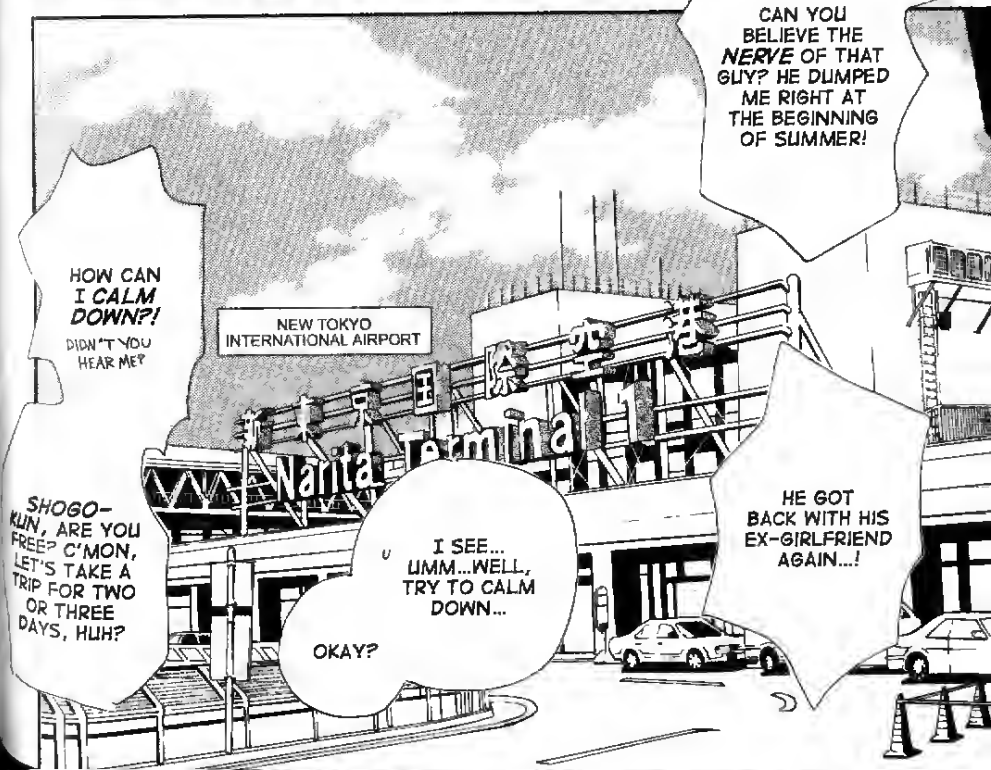
ARGHHH!
SO, YOU'RE IN A ROSY MOOD ...?
HE'S COMING ALL THE WAY FROM THE U.S. TO SEE YOU!
UMM...
A "SO-CALLED ACTOR"
WELL... IT IS TRUE, THOUGH
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL HIM.


WHAT?
WAIT A MINUTE... YOU SAID AL- SOMETHING WHEN I CAME IN...
YOU MEAN THAT SO-CALLED ACTOR BOYFRIEND OF YOURS?

I TOLD YOU ABOUT IT, DIDN'T I KITAGAKI?

WHAT?!
I GOT DUMPED! HOLD ME...!
WHAT'S WRONG...?


SHOOKA
SHOOKA
SHOOKA


LISTEN...
CAN YOU BELIEVE THE NERVE OF THAT GUY? HE DUMPED ME RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING OF SUMMER!
NEW TOKYO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
Narita Terminal
HOW CAN I CALM DOWN?!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
SHOGO-KUN, ARE YOU FREE? C'MON, LET'S TAKE A TRIP FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS, HUH?
I SEE... UMM...WELL, TRY TO CALM DOWN...
OKAY?
HE GOT BACK WITH HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND AGAIN...!

MM-HMM...
I'M SORRY.
DID YOU CALM DOWN?
NO, I'M NOT...
I LIKE YOU THE MOST OUT OF ALL MY FRIENDS...
GUYS AND GIRLS
YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE ALONE, RIGHT?
UMM...
MAN, I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE AS SENSITIVE AS YOU...
I SHOULD'VE GONE OUT WITH YOU INSTEAD.
DON'T YOU LIKE ME EVEN A LITTLE BIT?
I COULD BE YOUR "HOME-TOWN WIFE."
KINDA SELFISH, HUH?
I GUESS I WAS HOPING YOU FELT THE SAME WAY ABOUT ME...
THAT'S WHY YOU CAME TO ME ABOUT YOUR BOYFRIEND, ISN'T IT?
UH...

BUT... I DON'T KNOW WHEN HE'S COMING...
THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO GO ANY-WHERE.
I ONLY GET TO SEE HIM A FEW TIMES EACH YEAR...
AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE'S VISITED JAPAN.
I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, SO DON'T PRESSURE ME.

WOULD THOSE BEAUTIFUL BLUE EYES OF YOURS SAY TO HER...?
KNOCK KNOCK
<HELLO...?>

YOUR VOICE SAYS IT ALL...!
KITA-GAKI...
HEY...!
CLING
AAAUGH!
ALL RIGHT, FINE! YES, I'M LONELY RIGHT NOW...
IF YOU KNOW THAT, WHY CAN'T YOU DATE ME OUT OF PITY?
=SNIFF...=
VROOM
ALFRED...
WHAT...
I WONDER WHAT AL WOULD DO IN THIS SITUATION...?
SNIFF
SNIFF

AL...!
がちゃ
GERCHAK
SHO...?
HUH?
UH-OH...

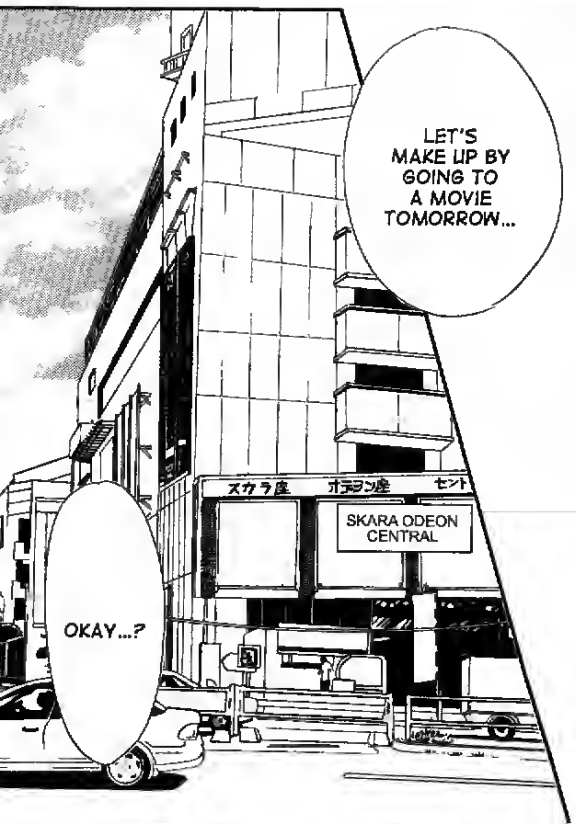
ALL I WANT RIGHT NOW IS TO BREATHE IN YOUR SCENT.
NOT EVEN A HUG.
HE STILL HASN'T KISSED ME.
YOUR HAIR'S GROWN A LOT...
HUH?
OH, YEAH...
...
HE LOOKS MORE GROWN-UP.
OKAY.
I UNDER-STAND.
REALLY, SHE'S JUST A FRIEND...
UMM...
DAMN IT... TALK TO ME!

...
KITAGAKI LEFT IN A HURRY AFTER THAT, BUT...
...

THONK
FWAP
WHAT WAS THAT...?
I MADE YOU LOOK SO UNHAPPY...
I WANTED TO SEE YOU TOO, ALFRED.
I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS.
BUT...

HUH?!
YOU'RE KIDDING! ALL THE WAY FROM NARITA?!
I TOOK A CAB...
IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME IN JAPAN, ISN'T IT? I'M SURPRISED YOU FOUND MY PLACE.
GRIP
NO YOU DON'T...!
HOW DID HE GET THE MONEY TO...?
I REALLY WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
I GOT THE MONEY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
HOW MUCH DID IT COST YOU?
I WORKED HARD TO COME SEE YOU, SHO.
BUT... I'M SURE THE PLANE TICKET WAS EXPENSIVE...

...
C'MON... KISS ME, ALFRED.
YOU SEE, AL -- SHE'S JUST A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE.
AND ENGLISH ISN'T HER STRONG SUIT.
SHE EVEN INCLUDED TWO MOVIE TICKETS.

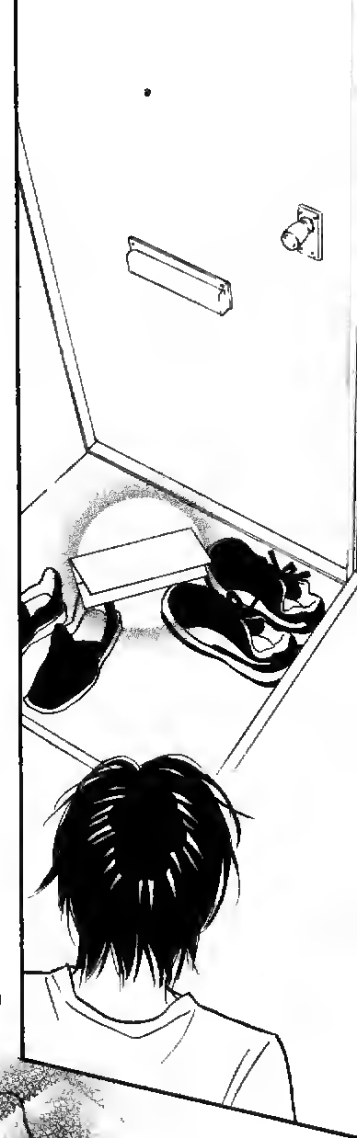

LET'S MAKE UP BY GOING TO A MOVIE TOMORROW...
SKARA ODEON CENTRAL
OKAY...?

I'VE NEVER EVEN KISSED HER...
IS IT THE TRUTH...?!
BECAUSE IN JAPAN, ONLY LOVERS KISS.

HEY, AL...
READ THIS.

HERE...
IT'S FROM THAT GIRL.

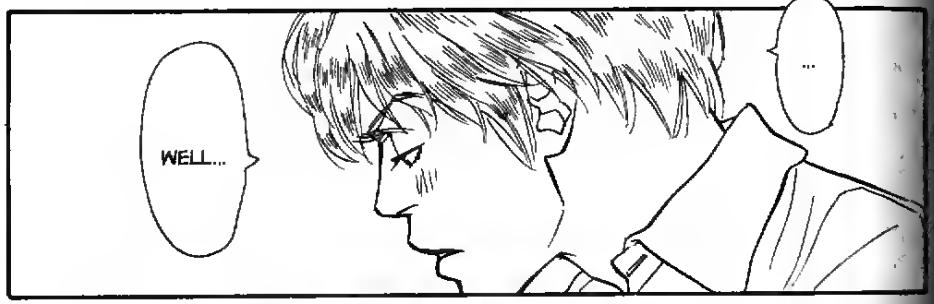
Dear Mr HANDSOME
I'm not SHOGO's steady
He has been going steady with you
Please trust him innocent
I'm sorry
from T. Kitagaki



I THINK IT'S THE FIRST TIME SHE'S EVER CALLED US.
YEAH, IT WAS A SURPRISE.
HUH?
SO THIS MUST BE WHAT KITAGAKI-SAN WAS TALKING ABOUT.
SHE CALLED US YESTER-DAY...
SHE WAS IN A RUSH, TOO.
AND WANTED TO KNOW WHAT GOOD MOVIES WERE PLAYING.
<OH! SORRY, AL...>
...
SHE SEEMED WORRIED... IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
YEAH, EVERY-THING'S COOL. THANKS, THOUGH.
OH... I SEE.

I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOU...
HOW ARE THINGS WITH YOU TWO?
WHAT'S UP?
HEY, SHO-KUN!
SO, SHO-KUN.. ARE YOU GONNA INTRODUCE HIM?
OH, YEAH -- THIS IS ALFRED.
<AL, THIS IS OTANI AND TACHIBANA.>
GLOWING AURA
H... HELLO ...?
<HI.>

HOW CAN YOU THINK OF ME HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TWO OF THEM?
WHAT, YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T MEAN...

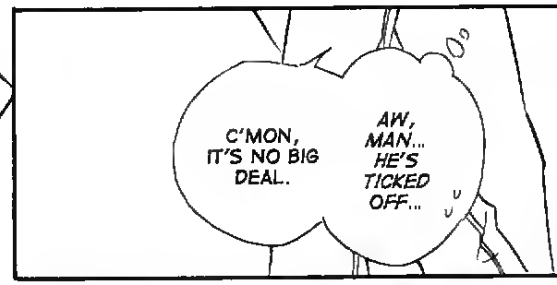

WELL...
...

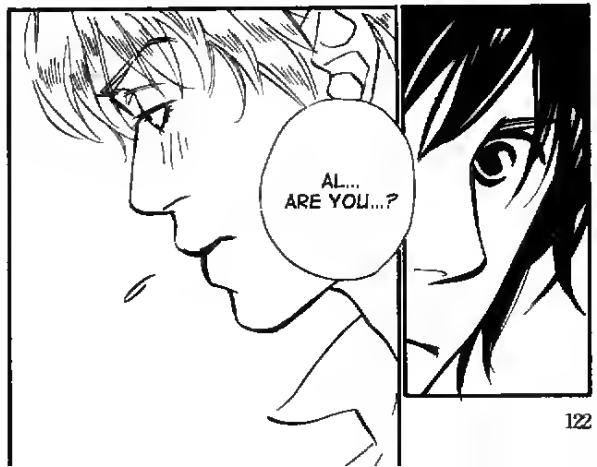
SNAP

SHO!
SHO...

SO WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE TWO?

I SEE YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF FRIENDS, SHO...
HUH?
YOU'RE LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON WHEN YOU SPEAK JAPANESE.


C'MON, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
AW, MAN... HE'S TICKED OFF...


I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAN'T SPEAK JAPANESE...
SO IT'S DIFFERENT THAN WHEN I MET YOUR FRIENDS IN AMERICA...
AL... ARE YOU...?

I'M REALLY SORRY...
SHO...
ALL I WANTED WAS TO INTRODUCE MY BOYFRIEND TO MY FRIENDS!
SHO, WAIT...!
FORGET IT.
I'M GOING BACK.
I'M SORRY!
HEY, THE MOVIE...!
I CAN'T TALK TO ANYONE IF YOU'RE GOING TO ACT LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME.
GERCHAK
MAYBE YOU'RE TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING YOURSELF BY SWEEPING IT UNDER THE RUG?
SHEESH...!
I UNDERSTAND WITH KITAGAKI, BUT WITH OTANI AND TACHIBANA?
YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE TO BE SO SUSPICIOUS.
AL, WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU?
CHAK
I'M SORRY...
YEAH, IT'S MY FAULT THAT YOU WALKED IN ON ME AT THE WRONG TIME!
"WELL" WHAT?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'VE HAD IT!

HEY...

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ALWAYS COMES TO VISIT ME...
I JUST WANTED TO VISIT YOU *MYSELF* FOR A CHANGE...
じわ...
TEAR

IS HE TRYING TO SAY ..?
WHAT...
BUT... I DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO COME HERE, SO...

I REGRET IT, ALL RIGHT?

...AL...?
PLEASE DON'T RUB IT IN...

HOW CAN YOU EXPECT ME TO *NOT* BE SUSPICIOUS...?
DON'T *AVOID* THE QUESTION!
I OPENED THE DOOR AND SAW YOU IN THE ARMS OF A GIRL...
OF *COURSE* I'M GOING TO BE SUSPICIOUS, SHO!
WHAT ARE YOU...?

WHAT KIND OF MAGAZINE?
A MODEL?
I GOT A JOB AS A MODEL...
...
A GAY ONE...
YEAH... FOR A MAGAZINE.

AL, YOU DIDN'T...
I NEEDED THE MONEY!
I GOT THE MONEY.
...
WAIT A MINUTE...
HE DID SAY SOMETHING ODD WHEN HE ARRIVED --

I KNOW HE'S THE SENSITIVE TYPE, BUT...
AL...
SNIFF

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM CRYING LIKE A SISSY BEFORE...
CALM DOWN... OKAY?
SNIFF

SNIFF
SNIFF

ALTHOUGH...
I CAN FEEL MY RAGE BUILDING ALREADY...
I PROMISE I WON'T GET ANGRY.
WHAT HAP-PENED?
C'MON, YOU CAN TELL ME.

I DIDN'T DO IT BECAUSE I LIKED IT...
I JUST REALLY WANTED TO COME TO JAPAN!
I QUIT AFTER THE SECOND TIME...
BUT WHAT I DID WAS AWFUL.
IT ISN'T HOW MANY TIMES YOU DID IT...
SIGH...
BAM
FAINT
...
NO! THE FIRST ONE WAS JUST A PHOTO SHOOT OF ME WITH AN ERECTION!!
WERE BOTH TIMES HARD-CORE...?
FOR SOME REASON...
I'M KEEPING PRETTY COOL RIGHT NOW.

WAS IT... HARD-CORE...?
DAMN IT! I SHOULD'VE REALIZED...
I WAS WORRIED HE'D DO SOMETHING RASH...
...
AL DOESN'T HAVE ANY STEADY WORK... HOW ELSE COULD HE AFFORD A PLANE TICKET...?
BUT THEN THEY ASKED ME TO DO IT AGAIN...
GERTAK
BESIDES, ONCE WASN'T ENOUGH FOR A PLANE TICKET...
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY PRIDE...?
I ONLY MEANT TO DO IT ONCE...

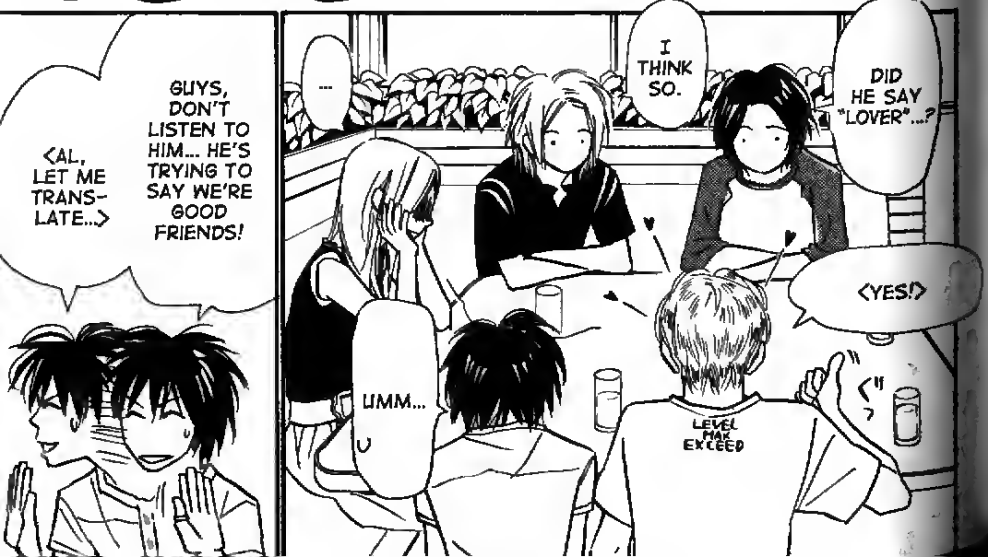
THAT WAS THE MOTTO...
PLEASE DON'T CRY...
YOU DIDN'T BECOME AN ACTOR TO DO THAT SORT OF THING, DID YOU...?
I TOLD MYSELF WHEN I STARTED GOING OUT WITH AN ACTOR.
"IMMOVABLE LIKE THE MOUNTAIN"...
I...I'M SORRY, SHO!
SHIVER
OTHER THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN THE DARKER SIDE OF THE FILM BUSINESS.
OVER SEX SCENES IN HIS MOVIES, OR..
I MADE A VOW THAT I WOULDN'T BECOME UPSET...
SHO...
I THOUGHT I WAS READY FOR ANYTHING...
SHO.

MY MIND WAS COOL, BUT NOW I CAN ONLY THINK OF ONE THING...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DO IT...?
SHO...?
HE HAD SEX WITH SOMEONE ON THE "SECOND ONE"...
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DO IT...
JUST TO COME TO JAPAN...?
TEAR

AFTERWARDS, WE STAYED INSIDE FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF DAYS.
MM-HMM...
ALFRED WANTED TO SPEND HIS ENTIRE TIME IN JAPAN IN MY BED...
BUT I CONVINCED HIM THAT WE'RE NOT JOHN AND YOKO.

I'M SORRY, SHO!
SHO!
JUST TO VISIT ME.
I NEVER THOUGHT IT'D BE LIKE THIS...
HE THREW AWAY HIS PRIDE...
DON'T BE THAT WAY.
COME ON...
SO... WAS IT GOOD?
YOU'RE SO NAIVE, ALFRED!!
I LOVE YOU!
SERIOUSLY...
BUT THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU.
..THANKS FOR COMING.

Denny's
<ANYWAY...>
<NICE TO MEET YOU! MY NAME IS ALFRED!>*
I'M SORRY...
FOR CALLING YOU ALL OUT OF THE BLUE...
どがーん
BOOM
← PERSUADED
<I'M SHOGO'S LOVER!>
*ENGLISH (OBVIOUSLY)


<AL, LET ME TRANS-LATE...>
GUYS, DON'T LISTEN TO HIM... HE'S TRYING TO SAY WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS!
...
I THINK SO.
DID HE SAY "LOVER"...?
<YES!>
UMM...
LEVEL ONE EXCEED

YOU WANT TO MEET KITAGAKI?
ONE DAY, WE WENT OUT FOR A LATE BREAKFAST...
UH-UH...
I WANT TO MEET HER AND THOSE OTHER GUYS YOU INTRODUCED ME TO.
HUH...?
SKARA ODEON CENTRAL

DON'T BE SO PESSI-MISTIC!
YOU HAVE TO BE MORE OPEN AND FRIENDLY!
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY -- YOU'RE A FOREIGNER.
KITAGAKI MAYBE, BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE OTHER TWO...
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WANTED TO INTRODUCE YOUR BOYFRIEND TO YOUR FRIENDS?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS...
MAY I ASK WHY...?

けん制球
WARNING
OH, GREAT...
<DON'T YOU GUYS LAY A HAND ON HIM, GOT IT?>

SHOGO...
BUT I'VE GOT TO...
IT'S EASY FOR YOU, AL...
I ALMOST FORGOT...
WHAT?!

HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO EXPLAIN THAT WHEN I SEE THEM AGAIN...?

OPENLY
<IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THEN...>
<SHO AND I MET IN JUNIOR HIGH...>
<DESPITE PARTING IN HIGH SCHOOL, WE MANAGED TO STAY IN LOVE ...>
UH...
YEAH...
<SHOGO WAS SO SEXY BACK THEN...>
...
...
<BUT HIS STOIC PERSONALITY IS WHAT ATTRACTED ME...>
UHH...

IDIOTS...
<ANYWAY...>
"SEXY"...?
"IN LOVE"?

I SWEAR ON MY GRAND-MOTHER'S SOUL IN HEAVEN.
CLASP
HELL, NO!
IF IT'S GOING TO HURT YOU, THEN I'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY.
LOOK AT ME.

I PROMISE I'LL NEVER TAKE A JOB LIKE THAT AGAIN.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU IN PORNO MAGA-ZINES...
AL... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
AND I'LL UNDER-STAND.
JUST KEEP IT TO YOURSELF...
BUT IF YOU NEED TO DO A JOB AND YOU DON'T WANT ME TO KNOW...

KEIKO KONNO PRESENTS

HIS ACTIONS WERE MELO-DRAMATIC...

BUT I KNOW HOW CLOSE AL WAS TO HIS GRAND-MOTHER...

SO I KNEW HE MEANT WHAT HE SAID.

WORDS OF DEVOTION (IMMOVABLE LIKE THE MOUNTAIN) ✱ END

•THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE NEWLY WRITTEN MATERIAL FOR THIS BOOK, SO I APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE THAT MY AFTERWORD IS IN THIS SECTION. I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR READING MY STORIES. THIS SERIES WILL CONTINUE FOR A WHILE LONGER, SO PLEASE STAY TUNED!

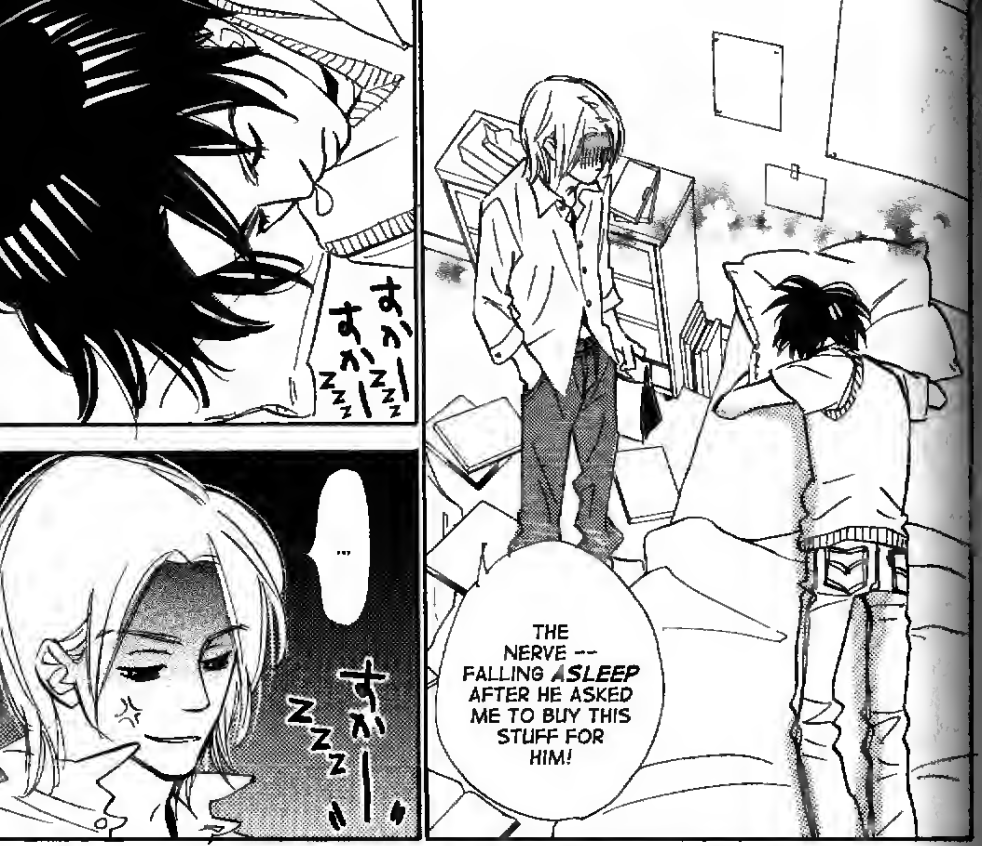
•MUCH OF THE DIALOGUE HAS BEEN ALTERED FOR THIS EDITION. I'D SAY THE NUMBER OF CHANGES I'VE DONE ARE MORE THAN THE CHANGES I DID FOR ANOTHER PUBLISHER. OH, BUT DON'T WORRY -- I HAVEN'T CHANGED THE STORIES, OR ANYTHING. I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO MY READERS WHO PREFERRED THE DIALOG IN DARIA MAGAZINE. MAYBE YOU CAN PRETEND YOU'RE GETTING TWO DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE SAME STORY...? OR MAYBE NOT...

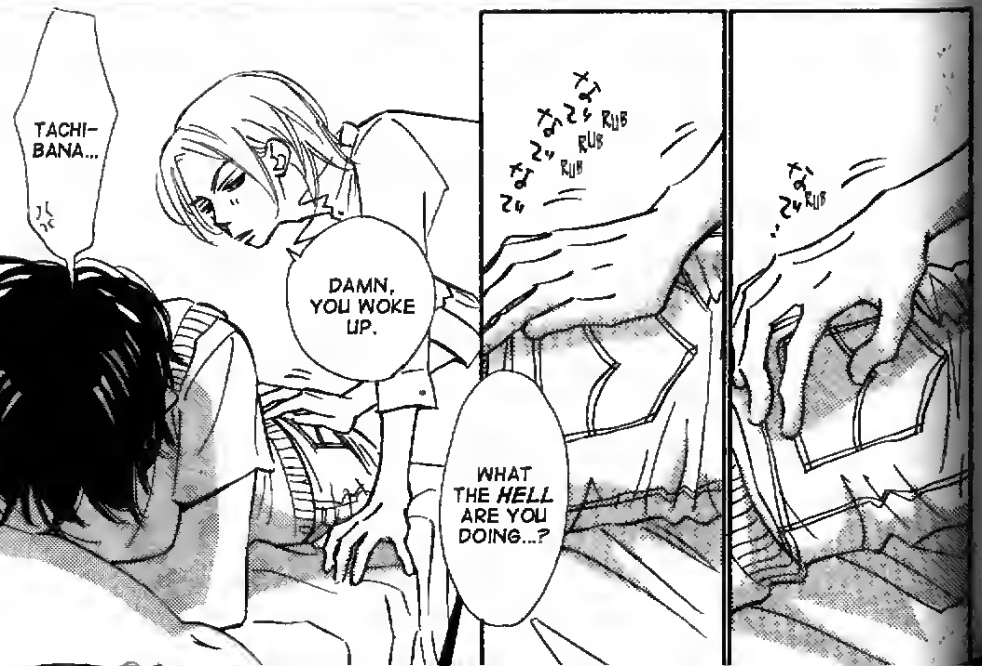
•I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS TIME TO THANK MY PUBLISHER'S AGENT, HZAWA-SAN, FOR PATIENCE AND FOR ALL TROUBLE THAT I'VE CAUSED. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME AS I DO MY BEST IN MY NEW STREET MUSICIAN SERIES! SINCE I WASN'T ABLE TO WRITE A COMPLETE AFTERWORD IN THE PREVIOUS VOLUME, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ADD A SPECIAL THANKS TO MY ASSISTANTS -- KANO-SAN, OKAWA-SAN, YASUDA-SAN, FURUKAWA-SAN, UCHIYAMA-SAN, DANDA-SAN, UMEZAKI-SAN, TSURUTA-SAN, WATANABE-SAN, TANAKA-SAN, SHIMIZU-SAN, KADOZAKI-SAN, AND TOMOCHIKA-SAN. ALL THIS WOULD'VE NEVER BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF ALL OF YOU!

•I GUESS THAT'S IT. THANKS A LOT! I HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON.

KEIKO KONNO

WORDS of DEVOTION
BED TIME STORIES





TO MY LOVE, WHO HAS GIVEN ME THE GIFT OF COUNTLESS KISSES...

MEN WHO WON'T CROSS THE LINE

I CAN'T IMAGINE MYSELF BEING *TURNED ON* BY MY OWN ASS.
BUT I WOULDN'T WANT PART OF *MY* BODY USED FOR SOMETHING OTHER THAN ITS INTENDED PURPOSE.
SAME HERE.
ME EITHER.
WHOA..
THEN LET GO OF MY HAND!!
TWIST
OW OW OW... SHIN, SERIOUSLY --- IT *HURTS!*
OUCH!
HOW ABOUT THIS...?
ALL RIGHT, FINE!
YOU'VE BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE WE SAW SHO-KUN AND ALFRED.
SHEESH... WHAT'S *WITH* YOU THESE DAYS?
WHAT WERE YOU DOING TO MY *BUTT*, YOU PERVERT?
ALL GUYS ARE PERVERTS.
BUT ALL *PERVERTS* DON'T TOUCH GUYS' BUTTS.
THAT'S NO EXCUSE.
THOSE TWO ARE GOING OUT, HUH?
YEAH, PROBABLY.
YOU COULD SPOT HIM A MILE AWAY
THAT ALFRED...
...
ALL RIGHT... I ADMIT I'VE IMAGINED THEM DOING IT, TOO...
SO, DO YOU THINK ALFRED'S THE *SEME?*
YOU KNOW, TO SHO-KUN

ACTUALLY, I WANTED TO ASK YOU A FAVOR...
SHO-KUN...?
NAH, IT'S COOL...
SORRY FOR CALLING YOU THIS LATE.
WHAT'S UP?
OKAY, I'LL WAIT FOR YOU. LATER!
HA HA SURE, NO PROBLEM.
HUH?
UH-HUH...
MAYBE HE'S SEEING ALFRED AGAIN?
WHAT'S UP?
HE'S GONNA CALL BACK ONCE HE GETS CLOSER TO OUR PLACE...
TEN MOVIES SHOULD DO IT, DON'T YOU THINK?
THE LONG HOLIDAY WEEKEND IS BORING HIM, SO HE WANTED TO KNOW IF I HAD ANY GOOD MOVIES HE CAN BORROW.
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT EASY...
HE LIVES IN THE U.S.
YEAH, I KNOW.

JOLT
...
MMM...
...

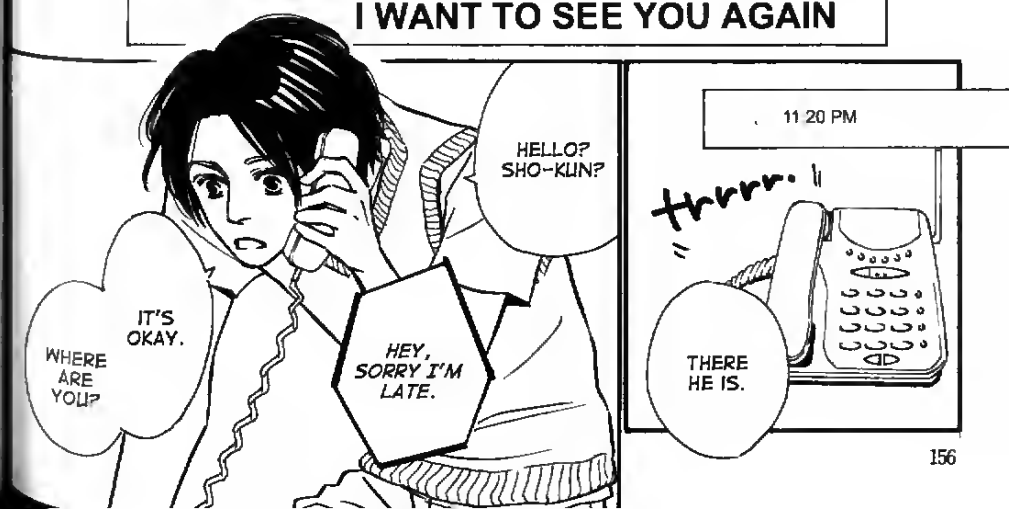
I WONDER HOW THEY'RE ABLE TO STAY TOGETHER...?
YOU'RE COMMITTED, BUT IT'S SO *DIFFICULT* TO MEET...
A LONG DISTANCE RELATION-SHIP...
YOU'RE JUST THINKING ABOUT SOMEONE, AND ---
WEIRD TIMING, HUH?

SHOGO'S PHONE SEX

I WANNA SHOW YOU MY NEW HAIR-CUT.
KITAGAKI SAYS I LOOK GOOD THIS WAY...
I CUT MY HAIR...
I MISS YOU...
I WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
AGAIN?
YOU KNOW THIS IS EMBARRASSING, RIGHT?
YEAH... LET'S DO IT AGAIN...
STOP WITH THE SEXY VOICE!
MAKES YOU WANNA COME VISIT ME, HUH?
I'LL HAVE TO JERK OFF AGAIN AFTER THIS CALL.
IT'S OKAY...
I'M THE ONLY ONE LISTENING TO YOU.
I MISS YOU...
AL.
HAAH
SHO...

UMM...
KICHIJOUJI STATION
吉祥寺駅
AT THE STATION
I'M ON MY WAY IF IT'S STILL ALL RIGHT WITH YOU...
WE'LL COME THERE SINCE OUR PLACE IS KINDA FAR...
THERE'S A PUBLIC PARK ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AWAY, IF YOU WALK ON THE MAIN STREET FROM THE STATION. CAN YOU MEET US?
...
SEE YOU!
IT'S NOT THAT I'M WORRIED HE'S GONNA FIND OUT, OR THAT I DON'T TRUST SHO-KUN, ALL RIGHT?
I KNOW.
KERCHAK

I WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN



FORGET ABOUT IT...
SORRY FOR DRAGGING YOU OUT THIS LATE.
HERE YA GO!
HOIST
THANKS!
LOOKIN' GOOD ♪
HA HA HA THANKS.
MM-HMM.
I JUST DON'T WANT ANYONE IN OUR ROOM BUT US.
...
...
GIVE IT UP! HE'S YOUR BOYFRIEND, ISN'T HE?
WHY?
HEY!
BE HONEST WITH US.. IT'S A LONG WEEKEND...
AREN'T YOU GOING TO SEE ALFRED?
OH, HEY..
DID YOU GET A HAIRCUT, SHO-KUN?

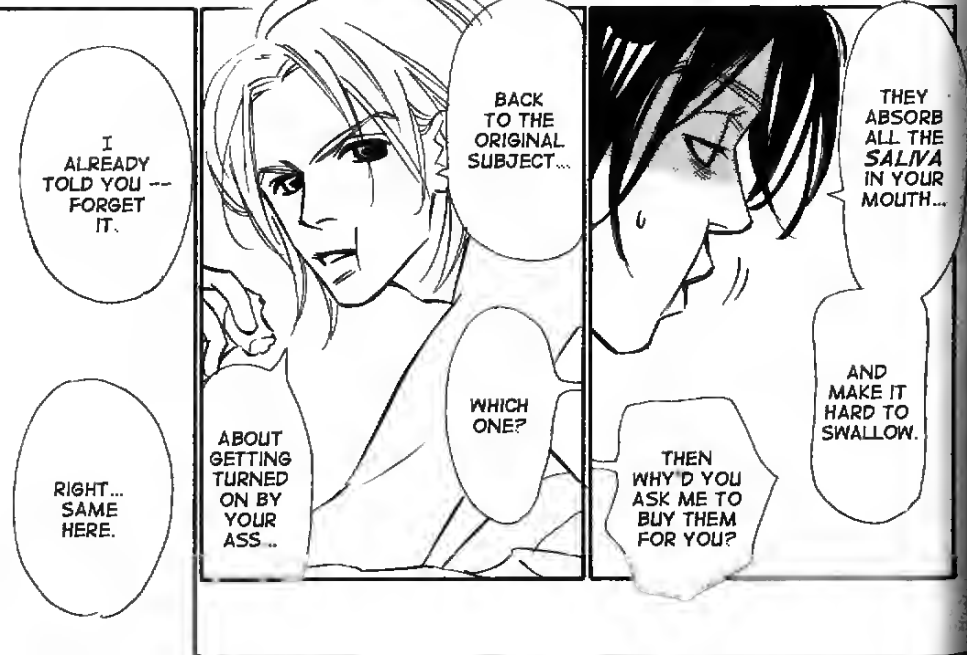
SAME HERE -- I'VE ONLY DONE IT WITH ONE PERSON...
...YEAH, BUT ONLY HIM.
THAT'S A HARD QUESTION...
SO WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO HIM?
BUT THAT GUY OVER THERE'S A BIGGER PERVERT THAN EITHER OF US.
OH, GEE -- THANKS!
LIKE I GIVE A ♯DAMN!!

YOU MANAGED TO DECIPHER ALL OF THAT?!
HE WAS SPEAKING NATIVE ENGLISH!!
YOU TWO HAVE BEEN GOING OUT SINCE JUNIOR HIGH, RIGHT?
THUD
AWW, MAN...!
I GUESS I WASN'T WORRIED ABOUT YOU TWO, BUT...
YOU WON'T EVEN HAVE TO PAY US TO KEEP QUIET.
PFFT- YOU THINK OUR FRIENDSHIP'S THAT CHEAP?
PLEASE DON'T HATE ME, GUYS...
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT...
I'M STILL DENYING IT...
BUT YOU'VE DONE IT WITH HIM, RIGHT?
!!
SO YOU'RE GAY?

I WANTED TO GET MY MIND OFF IT, SO THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU GUYS FOR THE MOVIES...
I REALLY WANT TO SHOW AL MY NEW HAIRCUT.
I NEED TO BE H... FOCUS...
WE TALKED ON THE PHONE A LITTLE WHILE AGO, AND I ALREADY MISS HIM.
THE PERSON I FELL IN LOVE WITH IS ALSO PURE OF HEART...
BUT THAT PERSON IS EVERYTHING I WANT IN THE WORLD.
THE BIG DIFFERENCE IS THEY AREN'T AS STRAIGHT-FOWARD AS ALFRED IS...
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THEY HAVE A LOT OF PRIDE... BUT THEY'RE SO SENSITIVE, I ALWAYS HAVE TO BE NEAR.
I HEAR YOU MAN...
I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE JUST LIKE YOU.
HE'S... KIND OF A DIM-WIT SOMETIMES, BUT PURE OF HEART.
I THINK HIS SIMPLE-MINDEDNESS...
MOST PEOPLE MIGHT THINK HE'S JUST STUPID, BUT...
BUT...
HE'S VERY FOCUSED IN THAT SENSE.
FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW, HE ALWAYS HAS A GOOD REASON FOR WHAT HE DOES.

YOU WANT TO SEE HIM, DON'T YOU?
WE'LL LET YOU BORROW THE MONEY...
THE CONVENIENCE STORE ATM IS OPEN 24 HOURS.
WHAT TIME DOES THE BANK OPEN.. 9 OR 10 AM?
OKAY, LET'S GO.
I...I COULDN'T DO THAT...
NO INTEREST, NO LATE FEES AND NO DUE DATE. THE MOST WE CAN LEND YOU IS 70-80,000 YEN, BUT THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH, RIGHT?
C'MON, SHO-KUN. WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

OH, YEAH! HIS GIRLFRIEND BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL FELT THAT WAY.
UMM...
YOU COULD SAY THAT...
DON'T YOUR GIRL-FRIENDS GET ANNOYED THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS HANGING OUT TOGETHER?
OH, SO YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN SIGNIFICANT OTHERS?
I ENVY YOU.
I WISH MY SIGNIFICANT OTHER LIVED IN THE SAME COUNTRY.
WHY NOT GO SEE HIM?
I WISH I COULD, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY...
THREE TIMES A YEAR IS THE BEST I CAN DO.


I ALREADY TOLD YOU -- FORGET IT.
RIGHT... SAME HERE.
BACK TO THE ORIGINAL SUBJECT...
ABOUT GETTING TURNED ON BY YOUR ASS..
WHICH ONE?
THEY ABSORB ALL THE SALIVA IN YOUR MOUTH...
AND MAKE IT HARD TO SWALLOW.
THEN WHY'D YOU ASK ME TO BUY THEM FOR YOU?

3:10 AM BEDTIME STORIES

YOU GAVE ME COUNTLESS KISSES AGAIN.

AFTER WE HEARD HIM SAY, "THANK YOU" MANY TIMES..

ALL I WANT IS TO SHARE EACH SPECIAL MOMENT WITH YOU...

NO MATTER HOW LONG WE'RE TOGETHER...

WORDS OF DEVOTION (BED TIME STORIES) ❋ END

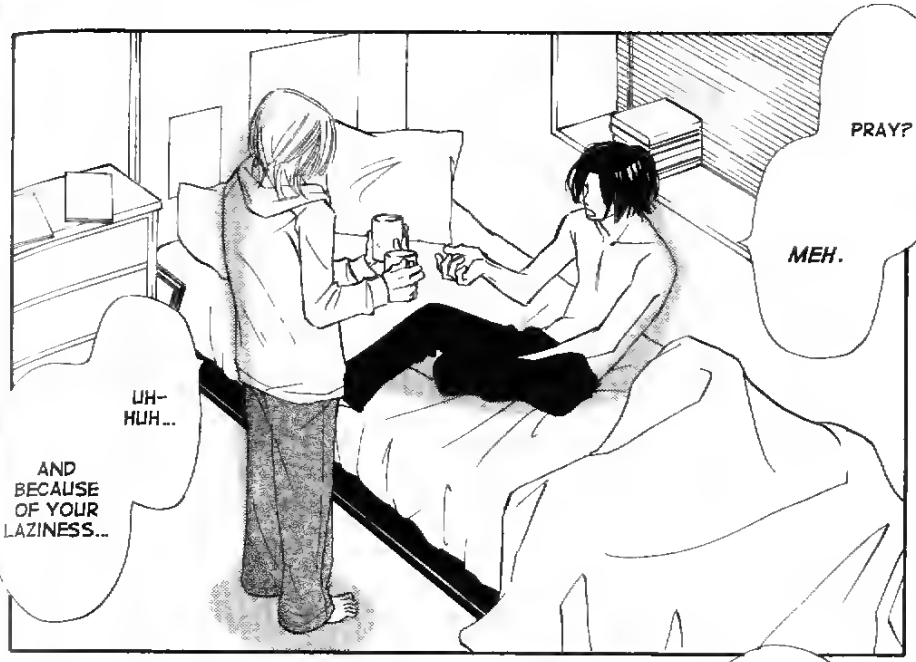
愛の言霊
アイノコトダマ
WORDS of DEVOTION
WE NEVER INTENDED TO HAVE SEX TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR...
BUT OUR MOOD GREW AS WE WATCHED TV...
KOUHAKU UTAGASSEN
MM...
HEY!
WHOA!
HOLD ON!
YOUR FINGERS...
YOU...!
DON'T...
YOU WANT THEM IN YOU?
...
WELL...
YES, IT'S TRUE...
I WANT IT...

NEW YEAR...!!
WOO-HOO!
A...
HAPPY...
AS THE NEW YEAR RANG IN.
...
WOO-HOO!
WOO-HOO!
WOO-HOO!
WE JUST SAT THERE...
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU, TOO.
YEAH...
HAPPY NEW YEAR.
WANNA GO OUT AND PRAY?

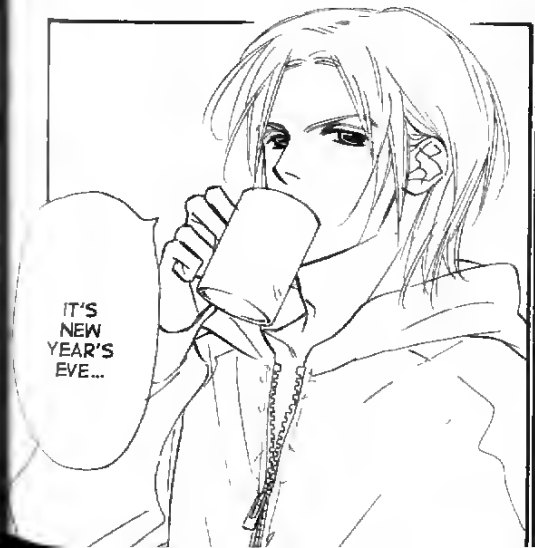
I... SAID...
YANK
I'M STILL A VIRGIN...
HEY?!
WAIT, TACHI-BANA!
HEY...
SHOVE
STOP IT!
...

THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE TO GO...
THE MEIJI SHRINE.

ヒョオオオ
オオオ
WOOOSH


PRAY?
MEH.
UH-HUH...
AND BECAUSE OF YOUR LAZINESS...

2ND YEAR HIGH SCHOOL
→WATCHED TV AT TACHIBANA'S
3RD YEAR HIGH SCHOOL
→ STUDIED FOR EXAMS AT TACHIBANA'S
1ST YEAR UNIVERSITY
→ PART TIME JOB
2ND YEAR UNIVERSITY
...
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE SPENT NEW YEAR INDOORS LIKE AN ELDERLY COUPLE?


IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE...

WE HAD SEX...
THAT'S SOMETHING AN ELDERLY COUPLE CAN'T DO.
ALL RIGHT, WHERE?

SO LET'S STAY.
BUT I'M STARTING TO THINK CREATING SPECIAL TIME FOR SPECIAL REASONS IS WORTHWHILE...

YOU WANT ME TO KICK YOUR ASS?
THAT I CAN POP SHINYA'S ASS THIS YEAR.
WHISPER

WE'VE MADE IT THIS FAR, SO I'M PRAYING FOR SOMETHING BIG.
LIKE WHAT?
YEAH.
WE'RE FINALLY IN...!

40 MINUTES LATER
...
EXHAUSTION

WANNA HEAD BACK?
ONCE WE'RE IN, IT'S GONNA BE HARD TO GET OUT.
I WANNA GO.
PLACARD
PLEASE WAIT HERE
しばらくお待ちください。
UH-HUH. I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT EVERY TIME I SAW IT ON TV...
"WHY WOULD I GO TO STAND WITH A BUNCH OF PEOPLE?"
WE CAME HERE TO SEE A CROWD...?

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WAS A PERFECT THING BETWEEN US...
ENJOY WASTING TIME WITH YOU...
...
I...

WHO SAID THAT?
THE MORE YOU SPEAK THEM...
THE LIKELIER THEY ARE TO COME TRUE.
SO THAT'S WHY HE WHISPERED IN MY EAR...
IT'S IMPORTANT I SAY MY PRAYER OUT LOUD...
...
MAYBE NEXT TIME.

WORDS OF DEVOTION ✱ END